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FLOWER COMICS

吉祥天女 3

吉田秋生

小学館
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FC-1303

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* Flower Comics *

Auspicious Heavenly Maiden

3

吉田秋生

Toono Akira ←

Son of a very influential man in town. Ryou's cousin.

Toono Ryou ←

Aware that Sayoko is to be feared. Can't say no to Akira.

Asai Yuiko ←

A quiet high school student. Fan of Sayoko.

VOL.3

Character Introductions

A beautiful transfer student wrapped in mystery. Daughter of the wealthy Kanou family.

Kanou Sayoko ←

Summary

Transfer student Kanou Sayoko quickly garnered popularity among her fellow classmates through her mysterious charms. The Kanous are a distinguished local family in possession of vast amounts of wealth. Toono Akira is looking to lay claim to this fortune by marrying Sayoko. Using Ryou and his other lackeys, Akira has kept a very close eye on Sayoko. Sayoko has had to escape from danger on several occasions. These bloody conflicts have finally lead to a death among one of Akira's underlings. An angry Akira tried to execute Sayoko on the night of the Autumn Festival, but with Ryou's help, she barely managed to escape with her life. However, Akira has found out about this betrayal, and is prepared to take his revenge.

フラワーコミックス

Hi-
yaaaaaaa!
S-SORRY ...
HOW COULD YOU?! YOU REALLY THREW ME!
OW OW OW OW OW...
I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR MARTIAL ARTS.. I'M A PACIFIST
OOOOOH, OUCH..

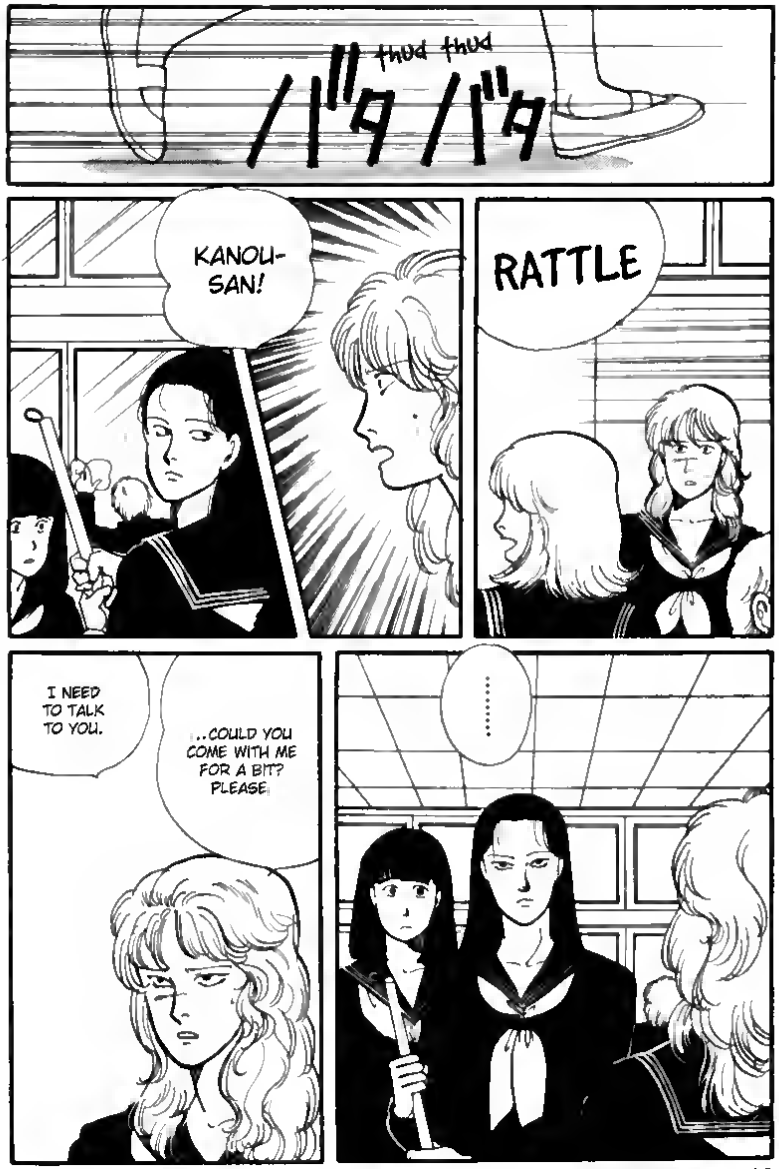
sigh
Hyaaa!
ドン
thump
Ouch!
HEY RYOU, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GONNA GO HAVE A SMOKE OUT BACK.. KEEP THE TEACHER BUSY FOR ME.
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT... I THOUGHT YOU WERE A TEACHER
WHAT..., THAT YOU, AKIRA?
LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER.
YOU'RE FREE AFTER THIS, RIGHT?

T/N: I'm not 100% positive, but this is likely a reference to the book Sanshirou by Soseki Natsume. The lead character is a fish out of water in Tokyo since he moved there from the countryside. I suppose Akira could be implying that Ryou isn't ready for what he got himself into. Maybe. I don't know.

HURRY UP AND CHANGE, SANSHIROU.
THERE'S A LOT WE NEED TO DISCUSS...
WE'RE NOT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WHAT FOR? YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT.
STRANGE... I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT I NEED TO BE CAREFUL WHEN HE GETS INSISTENT.
...I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
EH...? SURE.
GOTTA GO I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS
SORRY! IF YOU NEED TO TELL ME SOMETHING, I'M ALL YOURS LATER TONIGHT.
SHE'S BEEN IN A BAD MOOD LATELY.
AH! I CAN'T. I PROMISED HISAKO WE'D GO OUT TODAY!
YO! RYOU...
UM...

YOU'VE PLAYED ME FOR A FOOL ONE TIME TOO MANY.
!
I SAW THROUGH YOUR LITTLE RUSE.
flomp!
WHAT'S THIS...? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
SORE LOSER, I SEE.

...EVEN SO, I POURED MY HEART AND SOUL INTO THAT PART ...
I'M SURE YOU DID. BUT YOU WERE ONE-UPPED BY YOUR AUDIENCE.
YOU'RE NO ACTOR, THAT'S FOR SURE.
YOUR PERFORMANCE WAS CLUMSY AS HELL
...YOU'RE GOING TO BE A GOOD BOY TODAY.
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?
..SO?
WE'RE HAVING A PARTY TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR FINAL PERFORMANCE
GO CHANGE, RYOU


thud thud
バタ バタ
KANOU-SAN!
RATTLE
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
..COULD YOU COME WITH ME FOR A BIT? PLEASE.
.....

GLARE!
SERIOUSLY! SHE'S UP TO SOMETHING AGAIN
DON'T DO IT, SAYOKO IT'S TOO DANGEROUS
...TALK?
YOU HAVE MY APOLOGIES! SO PLEASE, I REALLY DO NEED TO TALK TO YOU! I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER!
S-SCARY!
SHE THINKS SHE'S SO GREAT...
SCARY ...
YOU TWO STAY OUT OF THIS! IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
...OK

Proudly Presents
Kisshou Tennyo
Yoshida Akimi
Volume 3
Credits:
Translator: Kololo
Editor: NightSwan
ProofReader: Catriona
Typesetter: NightSwan
QCers: Altilge, Synthoxide & Catriona
art by Felesya

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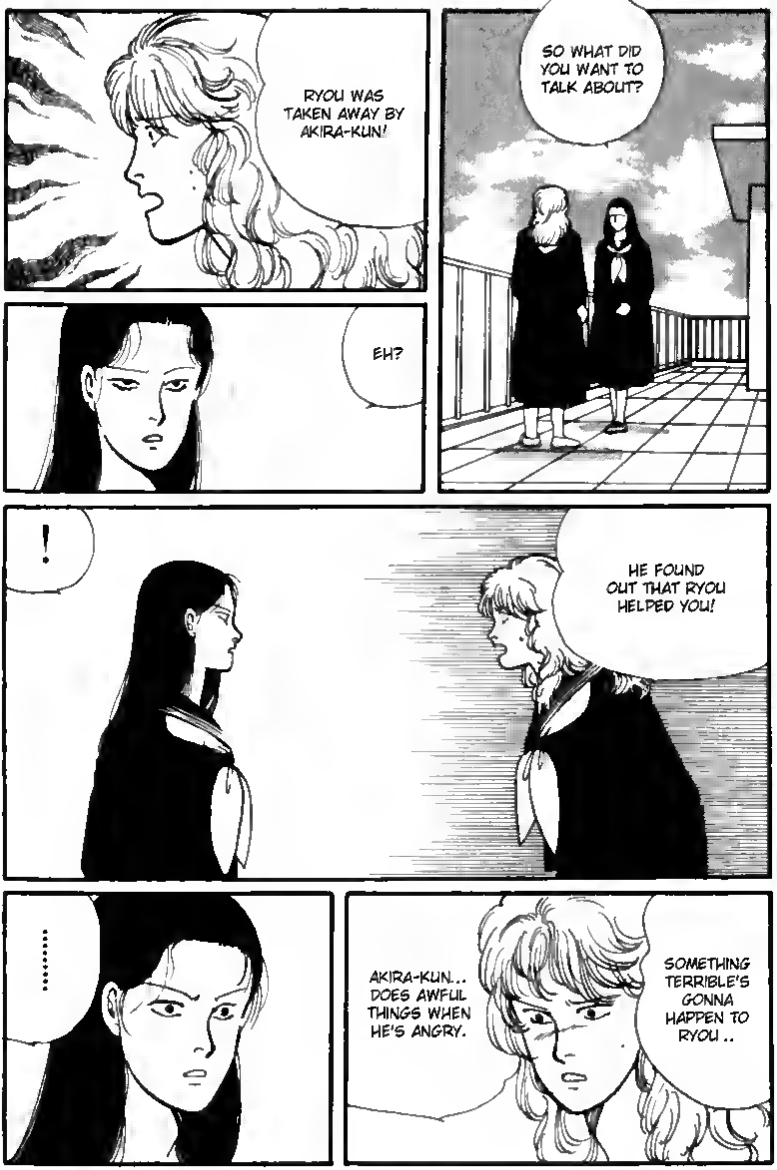
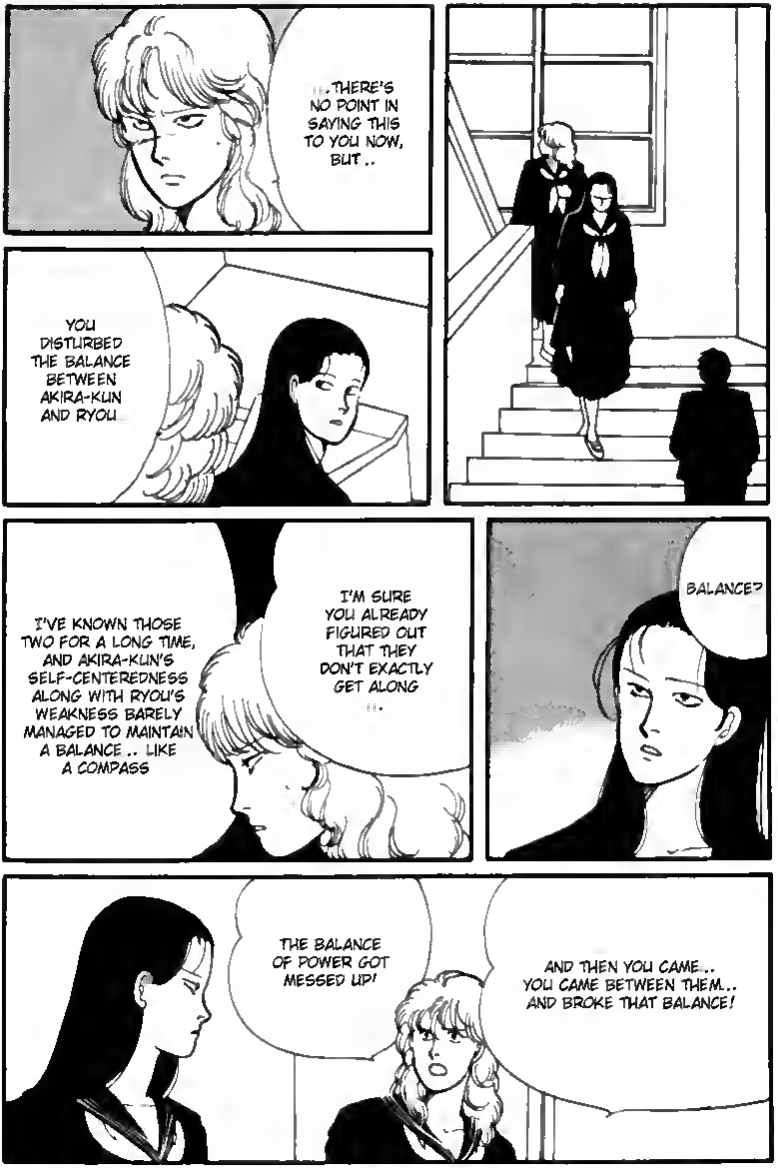
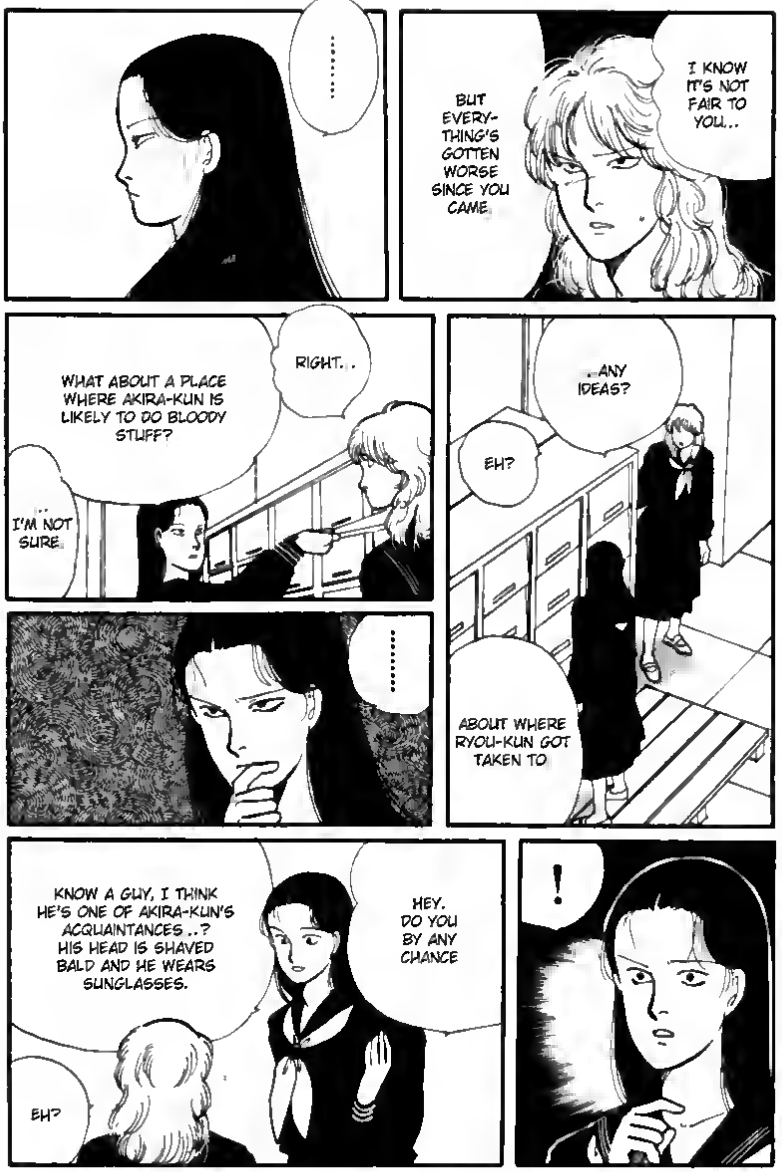
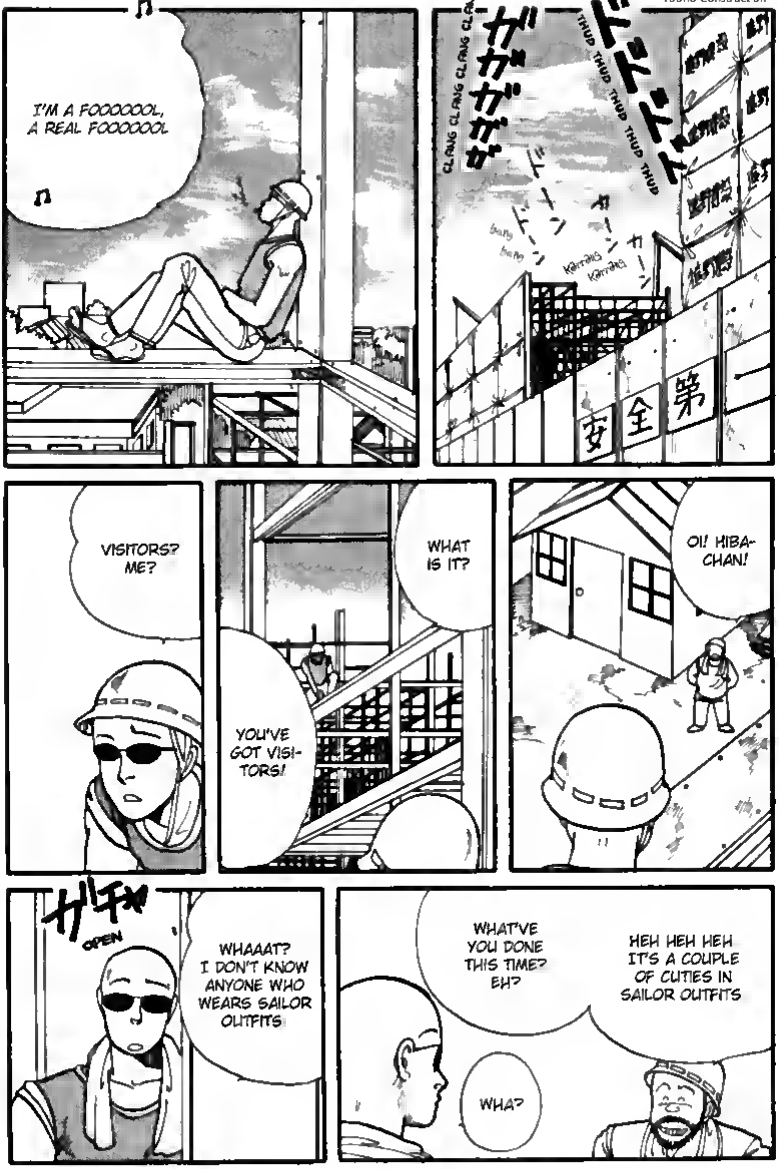
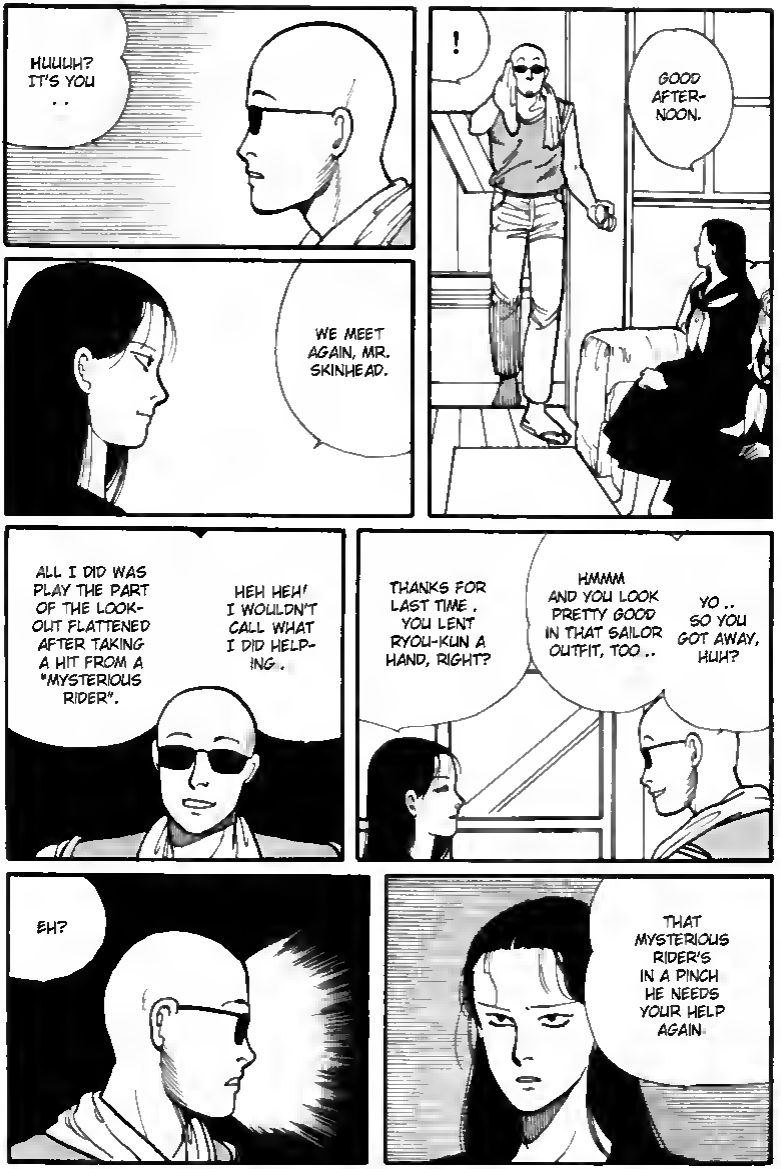

RYOU WAS TAKEN AWAY BY AKIRA-KUN!
SO WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
EH?
!
HE FOUND OUT THAT RYOU HELPED YOU!
.....
AKIRA-KUN... DOES AWFUL THINGS WHEN HE'S ANGRY.
SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S GONNA HAPPEN TO RYOU..

MAKE AKIRA-KUN STOP! SAVE RYOU!
KANOU-SAN, PLEASE! AKIRA-KUN LIKES YOU.
HE'LL LISTEN TO YOU!
PLEASE, SAVE RYOU ....
.....
BUT THAT'S NO EXCUSE TO LET THIS SLIDE
I'M NOT SO SURE THAT AKIRA-KUN WILL DO WHATEVER I SAY ..
..LET'S GO, IMAI-SAN.

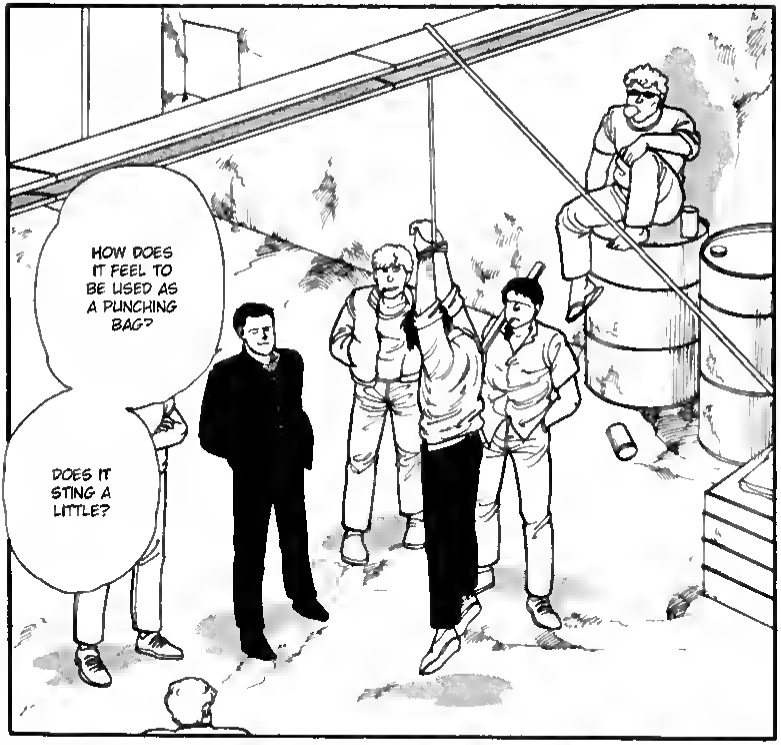

...THERE'S NO POINT IN SAYING THIS TO YOU NOW, BUT..
YOU DISTURBED THE BALANCE BETWEEN AKIRA-KUN AND RYOU
I'VE KNOWN THOSE TWO FOR A LONG TIME, AND AKIRA-KUN'S SELF-CENTEREDNESS ALONG WITH RYOU'S WEAKNESS BARELY MANAGED TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE.. LIKE A COMPASS
I'M SURE YOU ALREADY FIGURED OUT THAT THEY DON'T EXACTLY GET ALONG...
BALANCE?
THE BALANCE OF POWER GOT MESSED UP!
AND THEN YOU CAME.. YOU CAME BETWEEN THEM... AND BROKE THAT BALANCE!


.....
I KNOW IT'S NOT FAIR TO YOU..
BUT EVERY-THING'S GOTTEN WORSE SINCE YOU CAME
RIGHT..
WHAT ABOUT A PLACE WHERE AKIRA-KUN IS LIKELY TO DO BLOODY STUFF?
..I'M NOT SURE.
..ANY IDEAS?
EH?
ABOUT WHERE RYOU-KUN GOT TAKEN TO
.....
HEY. DO YOU BY ANY CHANCE
KNOW A GUY, I THINK HE'S ONE OF AKIRA-KUN'S ACQUAINTANCES ..? HIS HEAD IS SHAVED BALD AND HE WEARS SUNGLASSES.
EH?
!


I'M A FOOOOOL, A REAL FOOOOOL
ドドドドド
THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD
ガガガガガ
CLANG CLANG CLANG CLANG CLANG
ガーン ガーン
Kannako Kannako
安全第
VISITORS? ME?
WHAT IS IT?
YOU'VE GOT VISI-TORS!
OI! HIBA-CHAN!
ガチャ
OPEN
WHAAAT? I DON'T KNOW ANYONE WHO WEARS SAILOR OUTFITS
WHAT'VE YOU DONE THIS TIME? EH?
WHA?
HEH HEH HEH IT'S A COUPLE OF CUTIES IN SAILOR OUTFITS


HUUUH? IT'S YOU . .
WE MEET AGAIN, MR. SKINHEAD.
!
GOOD AFTER-NOON.
ALL I DID WAS PLAY THE PART OF THE LOOK-OUT FLATTENED AFTER TAKING A HIT FROM A "MYSTERIOUS RIDER".
HEH HEH! I WOULDN'T CALL WHAT I DID HELP-ING.
THANKS FOR LAST TIME. YOU LENT RYOU-KUN A HAND, RIGHT?
HMMM AND YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD IN THAT SAILOR OUTFIT, TOO..
YO.. SO YOU GOT AWAY, HUH?
EH?
THAT MYSTERIOUS RIDER'S IN A PINCH HE NEEDS YOUR HELP AGAIN.

ザバー
SPLASH
HWHA..?



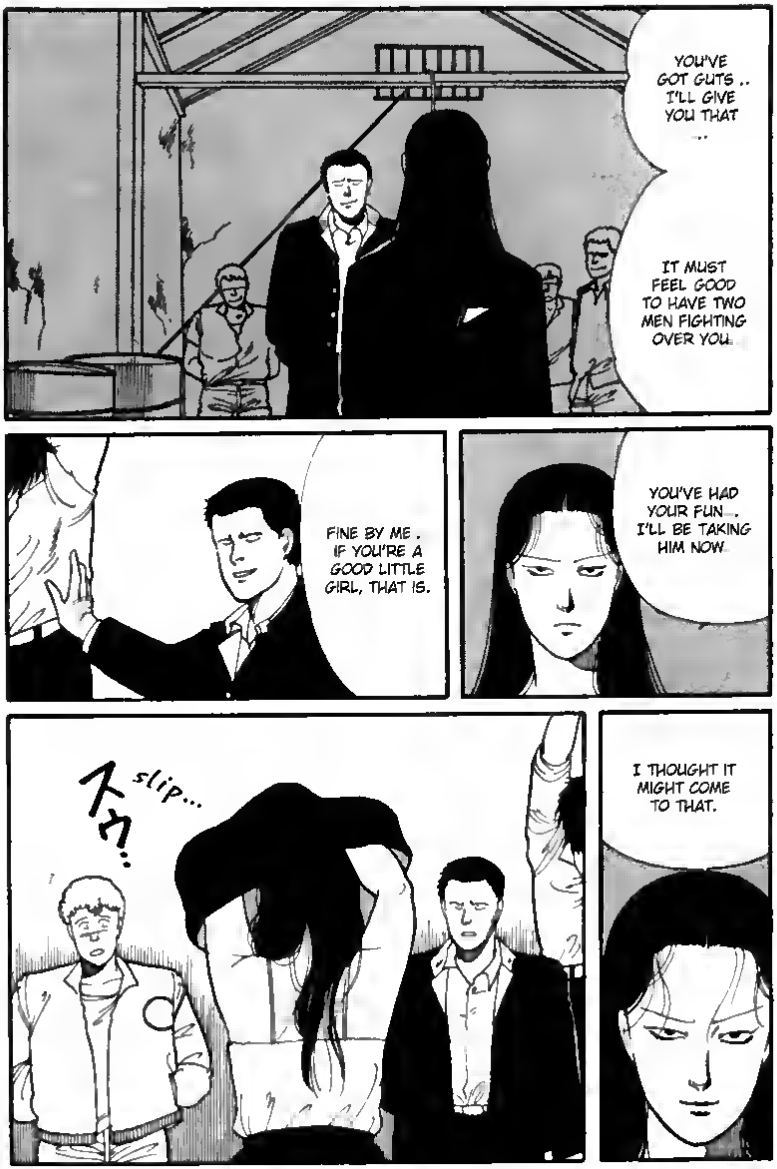
 T/N. Tomorrow's Joe is a boxing manga by Takamori Asao and Chiba Tetsuya.

WHAT?
I HAVE TO..
TAKE A LEAK...
TCHE!
YOU'RE ONE STUBBORN BASTARD...
!
GIVE ME THAT

YOU NEVER CRIED AS A KID NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WHALED ON YOU..
push
ぐい
ニヤ…
SMIRK...
!!
ド
ガ
WHA
I NEVER CARED FOR THAT...!

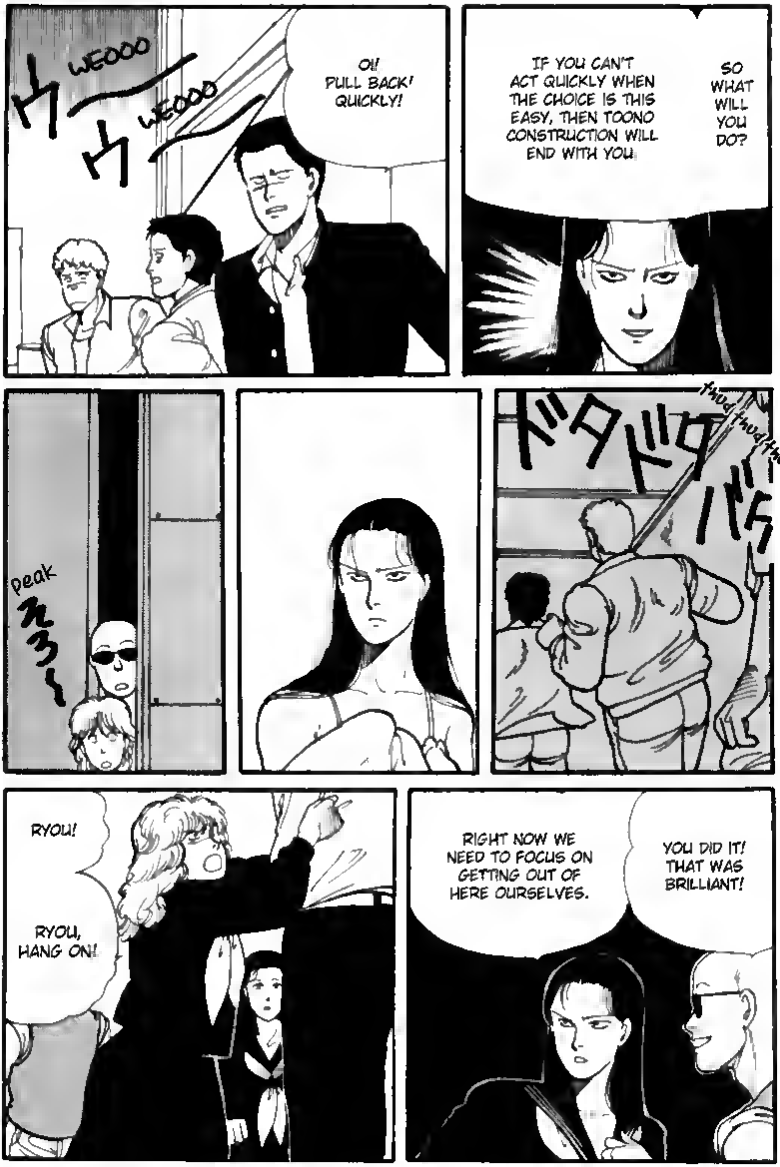
uu!
thwack
TRAITOR!
YOU...
AKIRA'S PRETTY PISSED
WILL HE BE OK? HE WON'T DIE OR ANYTHING... RIGHT?
thwack
whack whack
THE SAME COULD BE SAID OF YOU.
... I THOUGHT YOU WERE SMARTER THAN ALL THIS, RYOU ..

YOU...!
YOU REALLY DO LOVE S&M, DON'T YOU, AKIRA-KUN?
HMPH.
...I'M SURPRISED YOU KNEW TO COME HERE
I HEAR YOU ALWAYS USE THIS WAREHOUSE TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK.
HEH HEH HEH... COME TO SAVE YOUR PRINCE, EH...? YOU'RE ONE BRAVE PRINCESS
SURELY YOU DON'T INTEND TO KILL HIM, BUT YOU'VE STILL CROSSED THE LINE

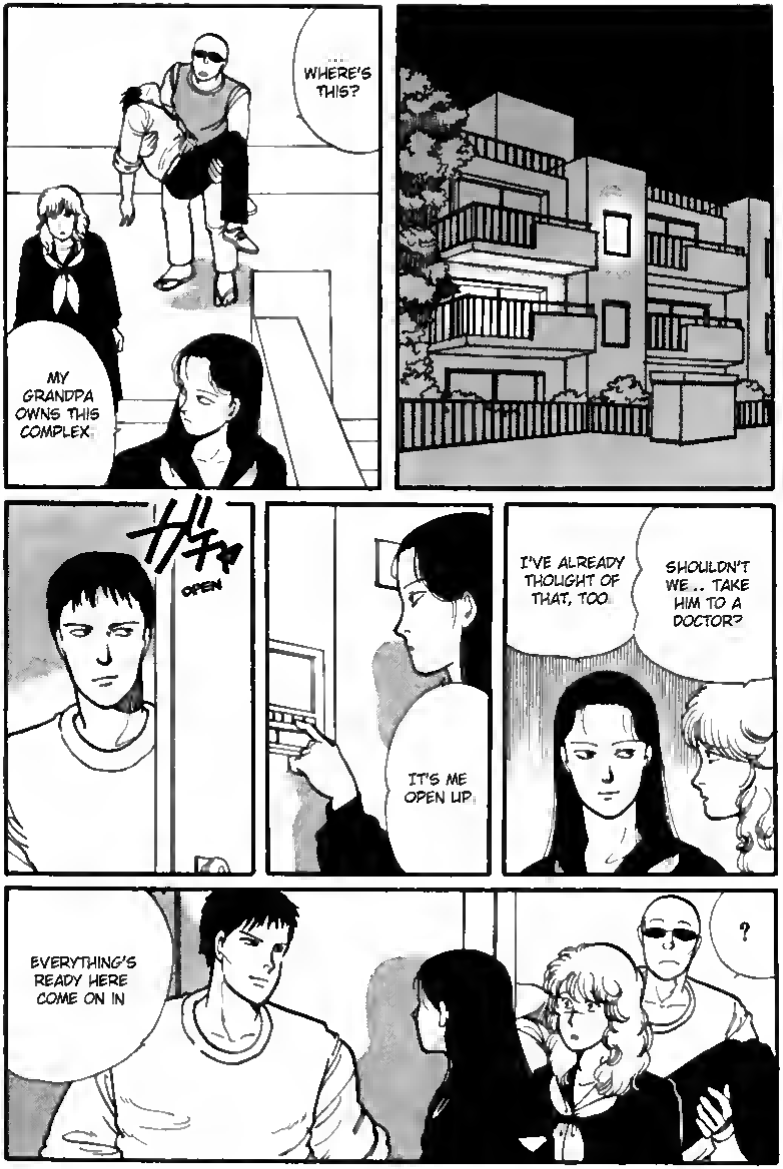

YOU'VE GOT GUTS .. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT ...
IT MUST FEEL GOOD TO HAVE TWO MEN FIGHTING OVER YOU.
FINE BY ME . IF YOU'RE A GOOD LITTLE GIRL, THAT IS.
YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN... I'LL BE TAKING HIM NOW.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT COME TO THAT.
slip...

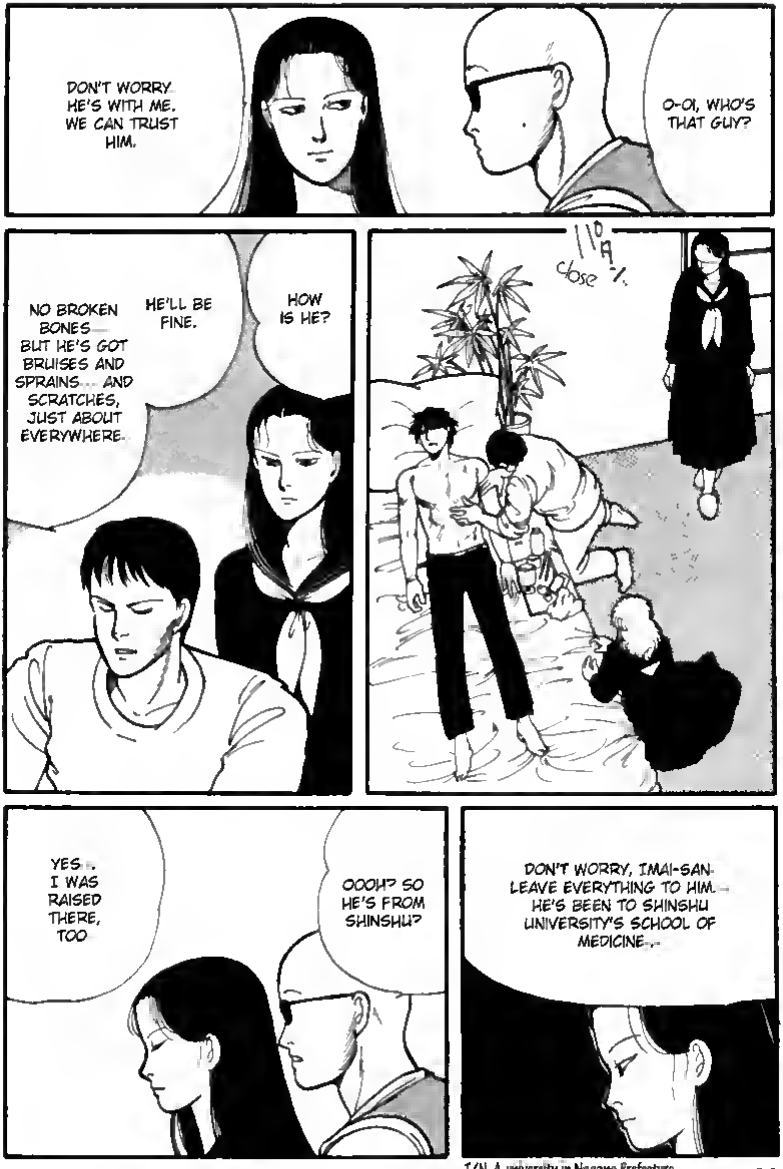
!?
RIP
CAN'T YOU HEAR IT, AKIRA-KUN?
WEOOOO
WEOOOO
WEOOOO
!
HEY! IT'S THE COPS!

WHY YOU...!
.....
SURELY YOU'RE NOT SO FOOLISH AS TO MISJUDGE WHO'S AT AN ADVANTAGE HERE
I DON'T CARE WHO YOUR FATHER IS I DOUBT EVEN HE COULD SAVE YOU FROM THIS ONE.
AT SCHOOL, I CAN'T COMPETE WITH YOUR ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH.
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT!
IN THE REAL WORLD, MY GRANDPA HOLDS THE SAME AMOUNT OF POWER AS YOUR FATHER

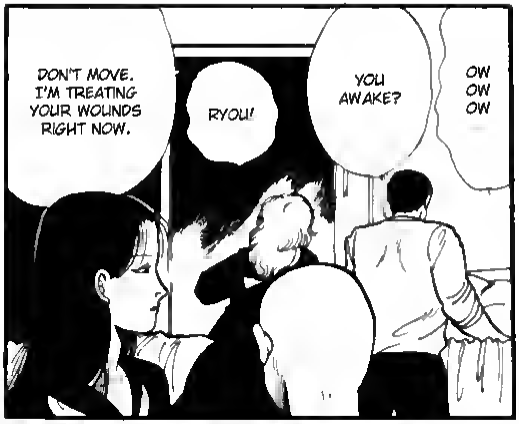

WEOOO
WEOOO
OI! PULL BACK! QUICKLY!
IF YOU CAN'T ACT QUICKLY WHEN THE CHOICE IS THIS EASY, THEN TOONO CONSTRUCTION WILL END WITH YOU.
SO WHAT WILL YOU DO?
peak
thud thud thud
RYOU!
RYOU, HANG ON!
RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO FOCUS ON GETTING OUT OF HERE OURSELVES.
YOU DID IT! THAT WAS BRILLIANT!

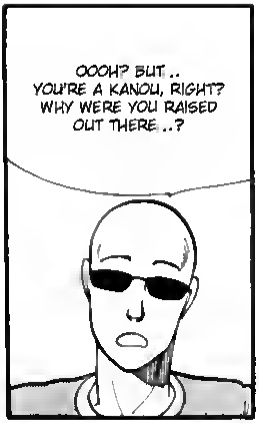
FLOMP
RYOU!
THE LANDING MIGHT BE A BIT ROUGH, RYOU-CHAN. SORRY.
SCRATCH SCRATCH
HE'S FINE, IMAI-SAN HE'S JUST LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.
WEOOO
OK! LET'S HURRY UP AND HIGHTAIL IT OUT OF HERE.
WEOOO
WEOOO
THE BACK ENTRANCE IS THIS WAY!

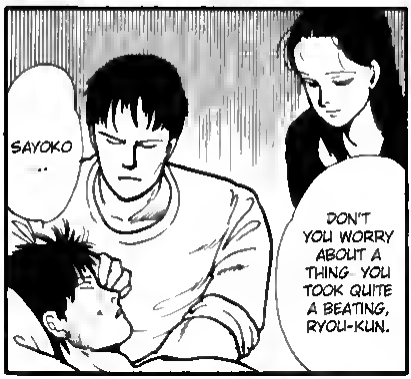

...
WHERE'S THIS?
MY GRANDPA OWNS THIS COMPLEX.
ガチャ
OPEN
IT'S ME OPEN UP.
I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT OF THAT, TOO.
SHOULDN'T WE.. TAKE HIM TO A DOCTOR?
EVERYTHING'S READY HERE COME ON IN
?


DON'T WORRY. HE'S WITH ME. WE CAN TRUST HIM.
O-OI, WHO'S THAT GUY?
HOW IS HE?
HE'LL BE FINE.
NO BROKEN BONES— BUT HE'S GOT BRUISES AND SPRAINS... AND SCRATCHES, JUST ABOUT EVERYWHERE.
close
OOOH? SO HE'S FROM SHINSHU?
YES... I WAS RAISED THERE, TOO
DON'T WORRY, IMAI-SAN. LEAVE EVERYTHING TO HIM. HE'S BEEN TO SHINSHU UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF MEDICINE...

T/N. A university in Nagano Prefecture.


DON'T MOVE. I'M TREATING YOUR WOUNDS RIGHT NOW.
RYOU!
YOU AWAKE?
OW OW OW


OOOH? BUT.. YOU'RE A KANOU, RIGHT? WHY WERE YOU RAISED OUT THERE..?


SAYOKO..
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING. YOU TOOK QUITE A BEATING, RYOU-KUN.

WHERE AM I...?
TREAT-ING... WHAT?
TREAT-ING...?

AIIIIEEEEEE!
がば
SITS UP
I WAS SO WORRIED! YOU POOR THING. I BET IT HURT!

RYOU! I'M SO GLAD WE GOT THERE BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

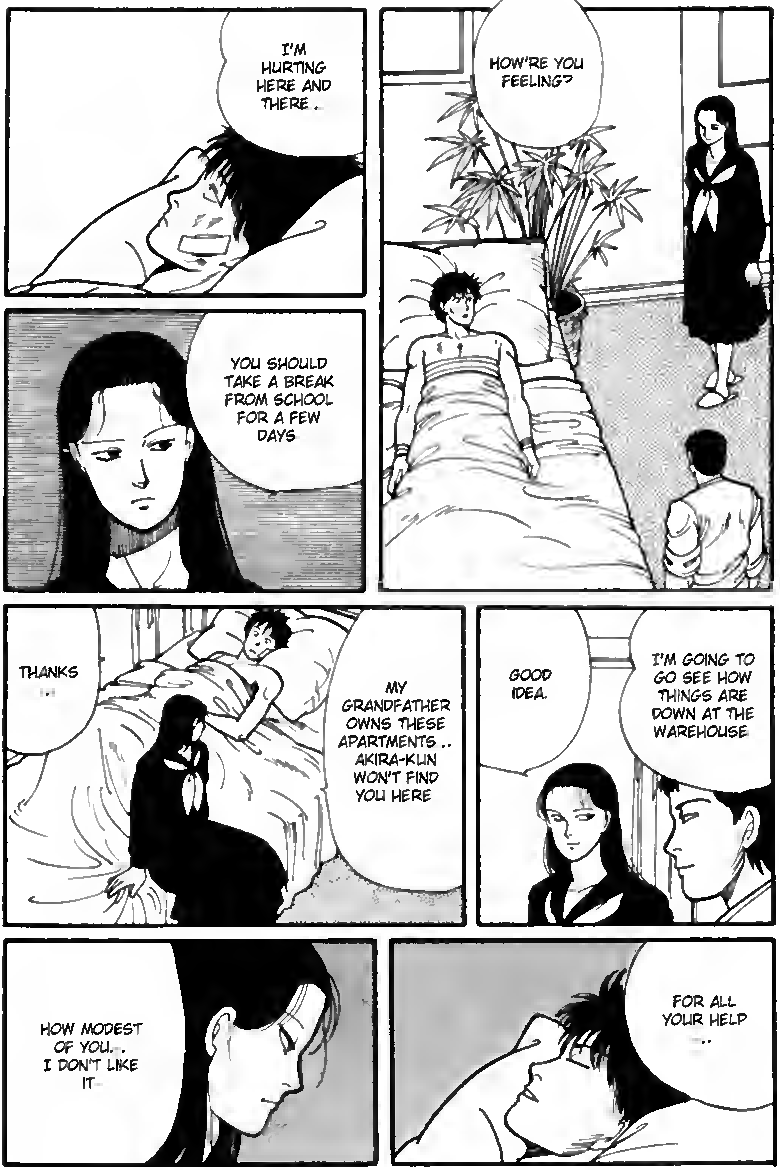
TN: Chako is Hisako's nickname

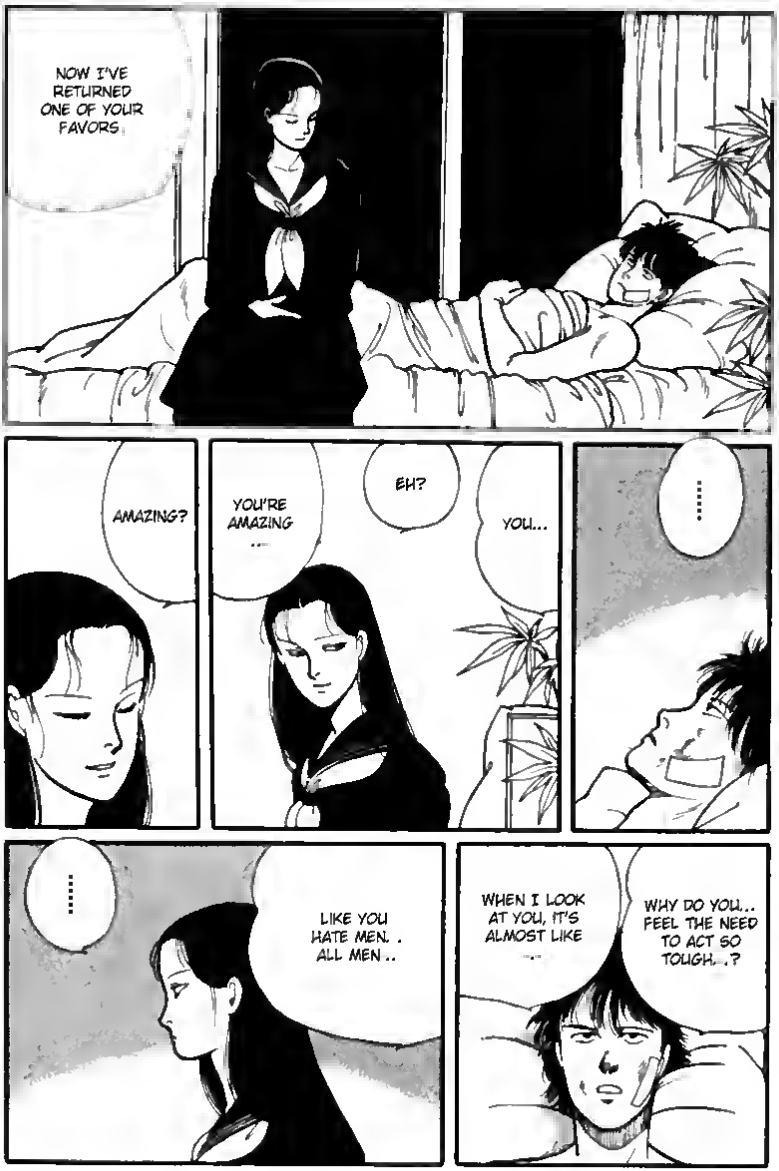
AKIRA KNOWS HOW TO HOLD A GRUDGE.. IF HE KNEW WE WERE INVOLVED,
OF COURSE I'D BE IN TROUBLE, BUT SO WOULD YOU.
...WELL, CHAKO-CHAN, WE REALLY SHOULD BE GETTING OUT OF HERE.
EH?
HE'S RIGHT, IMAI-SAN.
BUT..
LISTEN TO SAYOKO. GO HOME, HISAKO.
RYOU...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT RYOU-KUN.. HE CAN STAY HERE TONIGHT AND WE'LL TAKE HIM HOME TOMORROW... I DON'T THINK AKIRA-KUN WILL DO ANYTHING MORE TO HIM.
ATTA GIRL!
..OK.
I'M FINE.. THANKS FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME..
LET HIBA-CHAN TAKE YOU.. MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT..

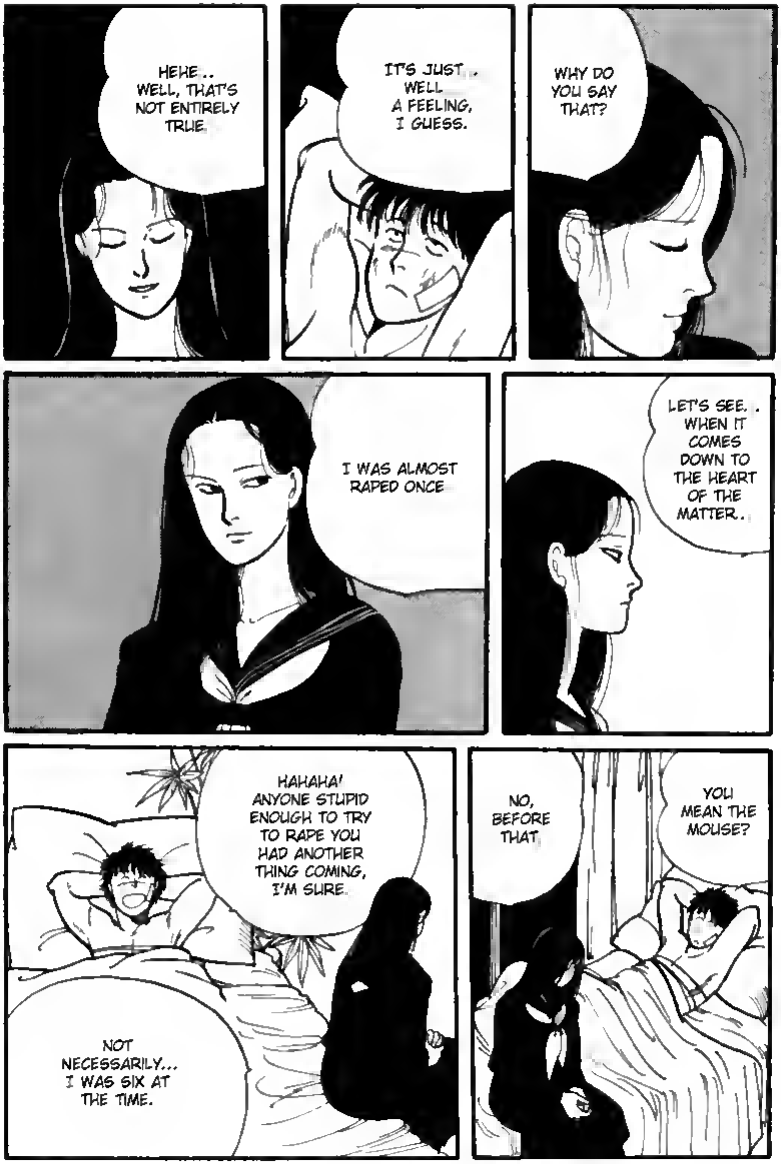
I LIKE RYOU-CHAN QUITE A BIT MORE THAN AKIRA ..
BESIDES, I CAN'T TURN DOWN A PRETTY LADY.
AW, IT WAS NOTHING
THANK YOU, MR. SKINHEAD YOU SAVED THE DAY.
.....
SEE YA ...
AT THIS RATE HE'S GOING TO BE PUSHED AROUND BY AKIRA FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE ..
HIS LITTLE SISTER IS SO SICK SHE SPENDS MOST HER TIME IN BED, SO HE COULDN'T LEAVE THAT HOUSE EVEN IF HE WANTED TO.
STILL, POOR RYOU-CHAN
I STUDIED TO BE ONE.
YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS...
ARE YOU A DOCTOR?
STOP WHINING YOU'RE A MAN, AREN'T YOU?
OW OW OW OW ...

WHY CAN'T YOU GO BACK?
WHY NOT?
OW OW OW...
YEAH. I CAN'T GO BACK.
NOW LAY DOWN. ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
STUDIED?
I MEAN, I WAS BORN A MAN! ISN'T THAT ENOUGH? IS THERE ANY NEED FOR ME TO "ACT LIKE" ONE?
AH! I DON'T LIKE THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE. "FOR A MAN".
EVEN IF I DON'T GO OUT OF MY WAY TO EMPHASIZE MY "MANLINESS", ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LOOK TO KNOW THAT I AM ONE.
WHAT FOR? C'MON!
STOP BEING SO NOSY.
YOU'RE AWFULLY TALKATIVE FOR A MAN.
...WHY DO YOU ASK?
WHAT ARE YOU TO SAYOKO? YOU ALWAYS KEEP CLOSE TO HER...
I'D SAY YOU HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.
THAT'S AN INTERESTING WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS.

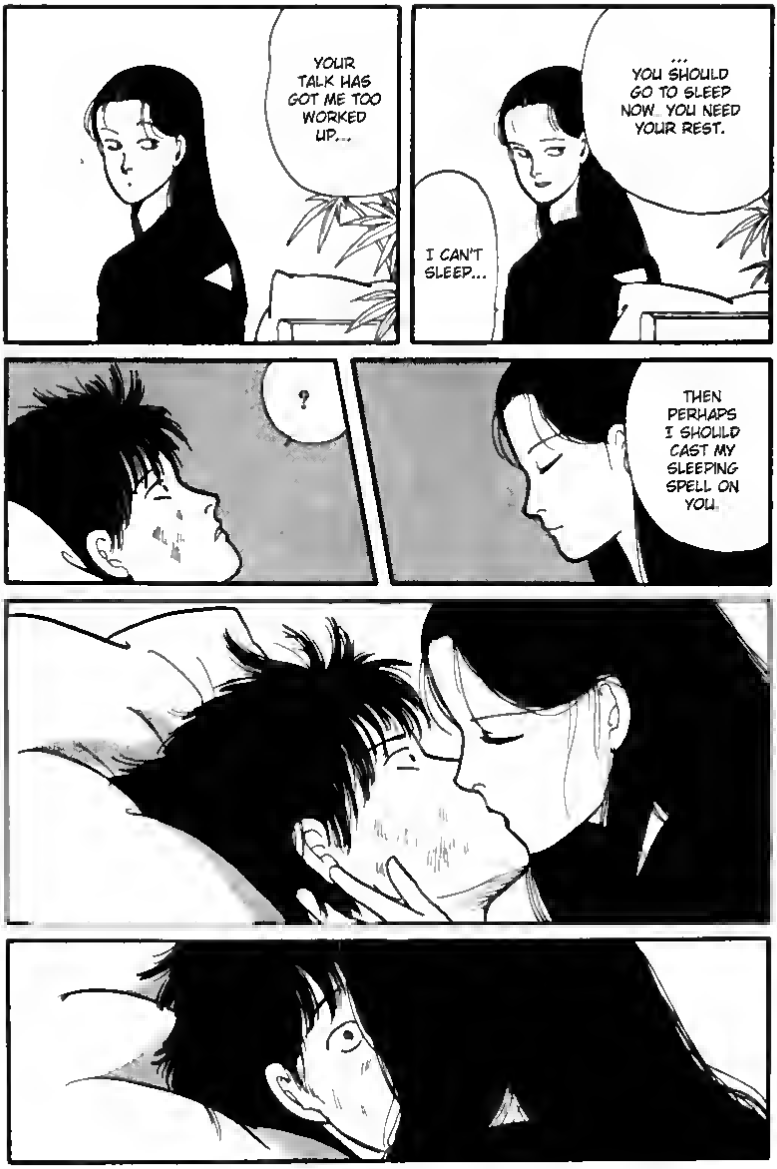
THAT'S IT.
THAT'S IT?
I'M THE KANOU FAMILY'S PRIVATE CHAUFFEUR
NO, IT'S OK.
THEN TELL ME
AM I NOT SUPPOSED TO?
SAYOKO SAID YOU'RE LIKE A BROTHER TO HER.
YOUR PLACE?
SHE CAME TO MY PLACE AT THE AGE OF SIX, I BELIEVE
YEAH, MY FAMILY IS A BRANCH... OF THE KANOU FAMILY.
.....
DO I NEED TO PUT A BANDAGE OVER YOUR MOUTH, TOO?
YOU'VE FALLEN PRETTY HARD
YOU GAVE UP ON BEING A DOCTOR TO FOLLOW HER HERE?

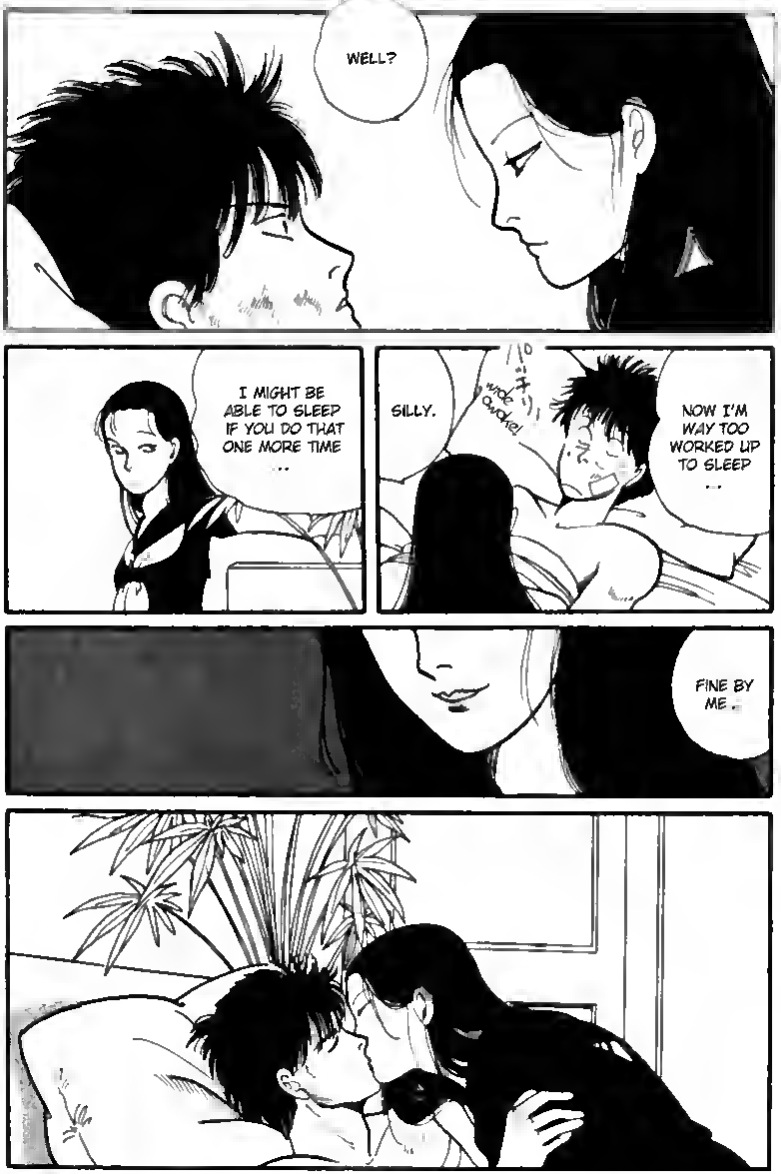

I'M HURTING HERE AND THERE..
HOW'RE YOU FEELING?
YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK FROM SCHOOL FOR A FEW DAYS
THANKS...
MY GRANDFATHER OWNS THESE APARTMENTS.. AKIRA-KUN WON'T FIND YOU HERE
GOOD IDEA.
I'M GOING TO GO SEE HOW THINGS ARE DOWN AT THE WAREHOUSE
HOW MODEST OF YOU.. I DON'T LIKE IT
FOR ALL YOUR HELP...


NOW I'VE RETURNED ONE OF YOUR FAVORS.
AMAZING?
YOU'RE AMAZING...
EH?
YOU...
.....
.....
LIKE YOU HATE MEN.. ALL MEN..
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, IT'S ALMOST LIKE...
WHY DO YOU.. FEEL THE NEED TO ACT SO TOUGH..?


HEHE.. WELL, THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE.
IT'S JUST.. WELL A FEELING, I GUESS.
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
I WAS ALMOST RAPED ONCE
LET'S SEE.. WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER..
HAHAHA! ANYONE STUPID ENOUGH TO TRY TO RAPE YOU HAD ANOTHER THING COMING, I'M SURE.
NOT NECESSARILY... I WAS SIX AT THE TIME.
NO, BEFORE THAT.
YOU MEAN THE MOUSE?

YEAH.
SUR-
PRISED?
!
STILL ..
BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. A LONG, LONG TIME AGO ..
ゴク.. gulp...
I KNOW HOW MANY TIMES THEY'VE DREAMED OF HAVING THEIR WAY WITH ME ..
I KNOW HOW MEN LOOK AT ME
I KNOW.
I DON'T HATE MEN, BUT I CERTAINLY DON'T RESPECT THEM, EITHER..


YOUR TALK HAS GOT ME TOO WORKED UP...
...YOU SHOULD GO TO SLEEP NOW. YOU NEED YOUR REST.
I CAN'T SLEEP...
?
THEN PERHAPS I SHOULD CAST MY SLEEPING SPELL ON YOU.

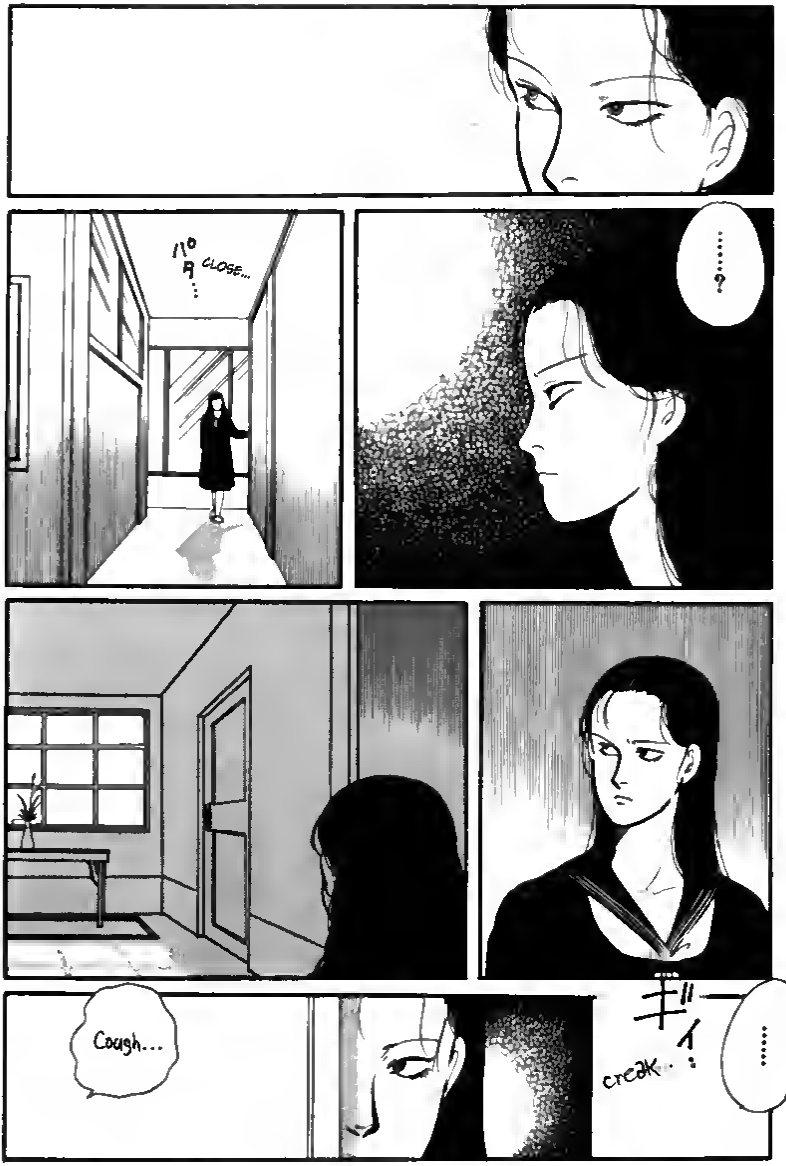

WELL?
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SLEEP IF YOU DO THAT ONE MORE TIME ...
SILLY.
NOW I'M WAY TOO WORKED UP TO SLEEP ...
FINE BY ME...

LOOKS LIKE IT WAS WRONG OF ME TO WORRY.
AREN'T YOU THE LIVELY ONE?
!
IS THAT SO?
TOUGHNESS IS ONE OF MY VIRTUES.
.....
NO BEING NAUGHTY TONIGHT. GO BEDDY-BYE LIKE A GOOD SLEEPYHEAD.
AA AAA AAA AH!
ギリ
PINCH
GOOD NIGHT.

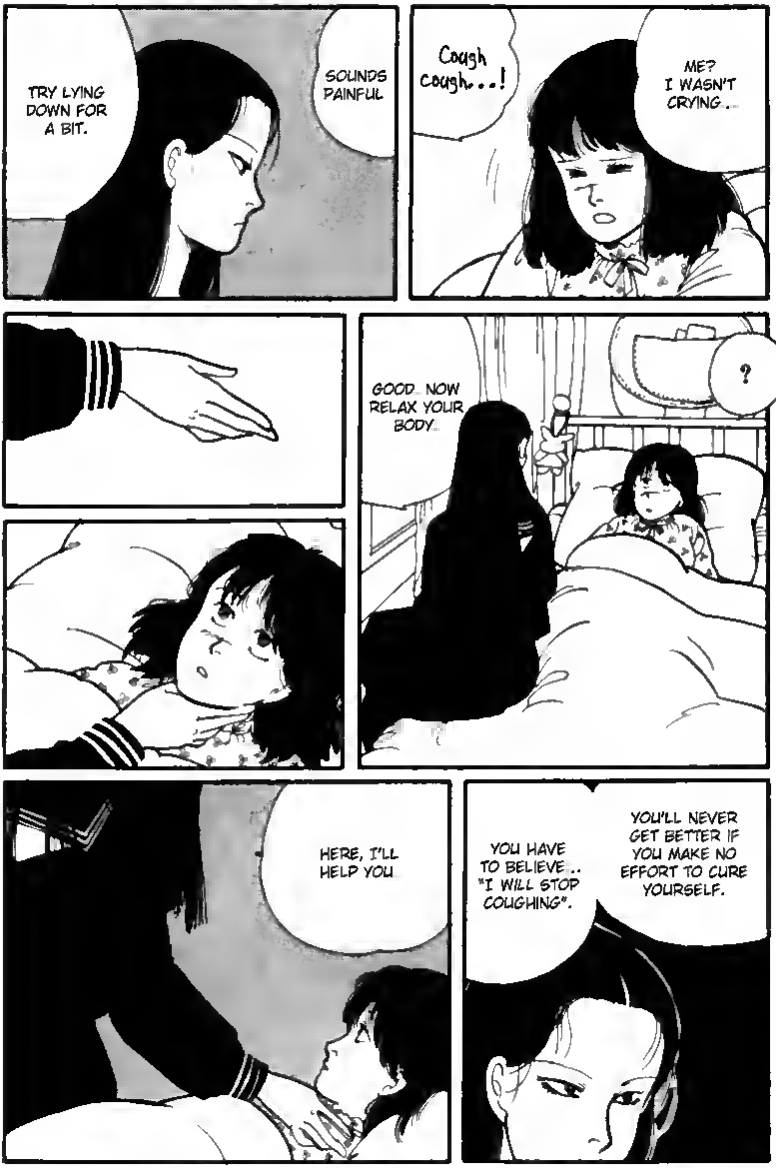
HA!
CLOSE...
SIIIIGH...
FRIGHTENING...

コツ コツ コツ
clack clack clack
遠野
Who's asking?
MY NAME IS KANOU. I'M A FRIEND FROM SCHOOL.
遠野
Yes?
I'D LIKE TO SEE TOONO RYOU-SAN, IF I MAY.
遠野

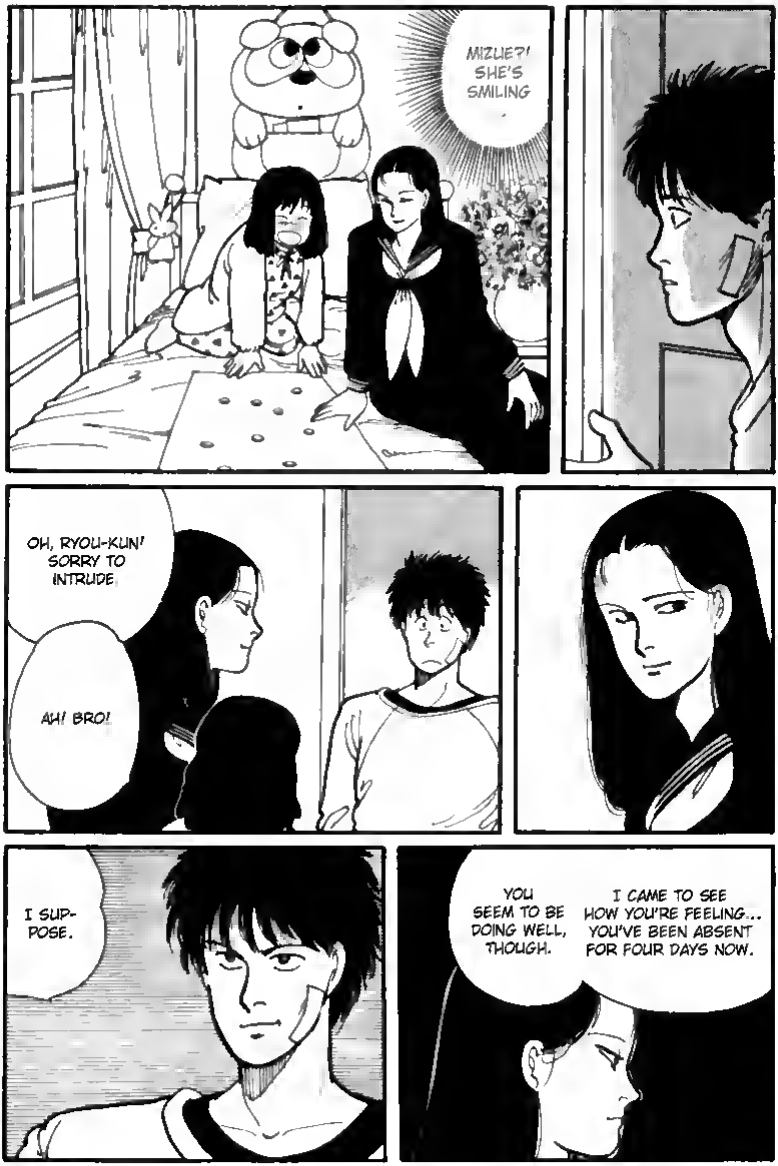
THANK YOU.
WELCOME COME RIGHT IN..
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT. I'LL CALL RYOU-CHAN OVER.
thud
thud
thud


CLOSE...
.....?
Cough...
creak...
.....

Cough.
WHO IS IT?
WHO ARE YOU, MISS?
I HEARD YOU CRYING.
THAT'S WHY I CAME.


TRY LYING DOWN FOR A BIT.
SOUNDS PAINFUL
Cough cough...!
ME? I WASN'T CRYING...
?
GOOD. NOW RELAX YOUR BODY.
HERE, I'LL HELP YOU
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE.. "I WILL STOP COUGHING".
YOU'LL NEVER GET BETTER IF YOU MAKE NO EFFORT TO CURE YOURSELF.

HMMM...
HUH? THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
THAT'S STRANGE I COULD'VE SWORN I ASKED HER TO WAIT HERE.
OH WELL. I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND ...
RIGHT ...
Hehehe!
Kyaaa!
Kyaaa!
WHERE DID SHE WONDER OFF TO ...?
flip flop
?
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!


MIZUE?! SHE'S SMILING
OH, RYOU-KUN! SORRY TO INTRUDE
AH! BRO!
I SUP-POSE.
I CAME TO SEE HOW YOU'RE FEELING... YOU'VE BEEN ABSENT FOR FOUR DAYS NOW.
YOU SEEM TO BE DOING WELL, THOUGH.

I'M FINE!
ARE YOU OK TO BE MOVING AROUND LIKE THAT, MIZUE? YOU COULD START COUGHING AGAIN.
OH, RIGHT!
HEY, IT'S YOUR TURN.
RIGHT!
WE'RE FRIENDS NOW. RIGHT, MIZUE-CHAN?
— I'M IMPRESSED. MY SISTER'S TERRIBLY SHY, AND SHE ALMOST NEVER COMES OUT OF HER SHELL AROUND PEOPLE.
HEH HEH HEH...
SEE? SHE'S FINE, RYOU-KUN.

T/N. Ohajiki is a game where you flick small discs with the goal of hitting the other player's pieces in order to "capture" them. I guess it's like tiddlywinks except you hit the other person's discs instead of aiming for a goal area.

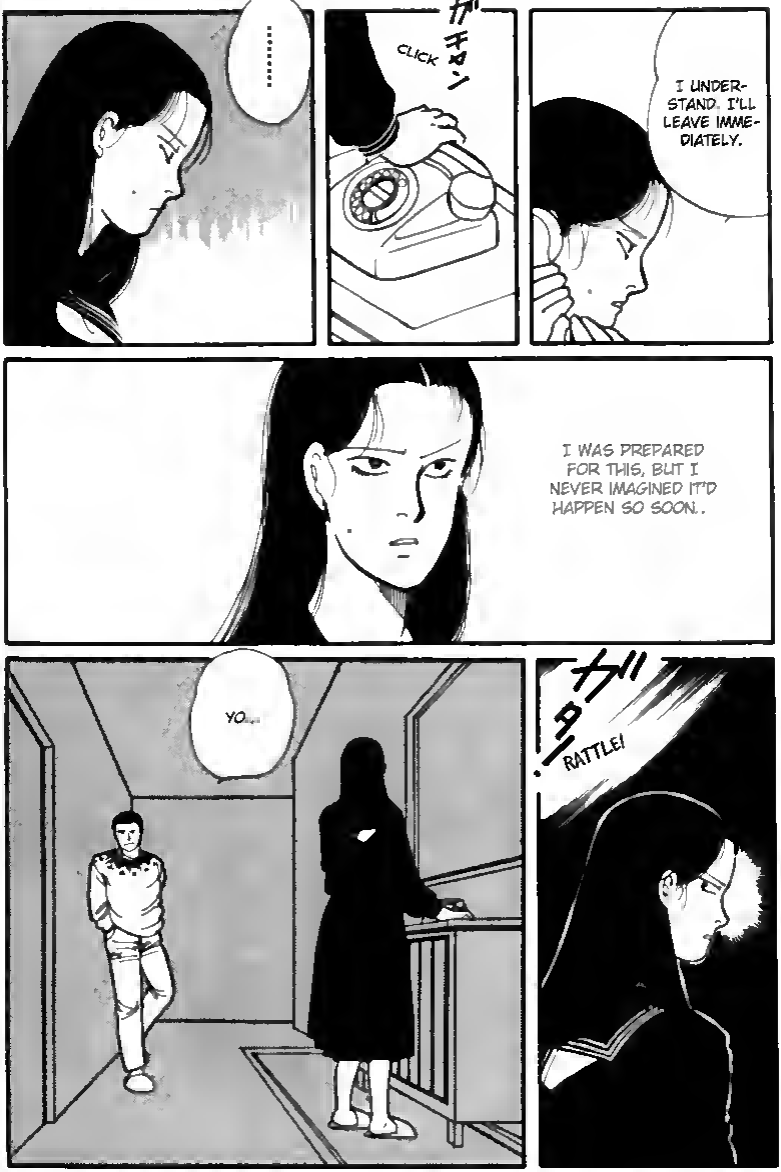
OHAJIKI! WANNA PLAY, BRO?
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS PLAYING?
NAH, I'M GOOD
OK.
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, MIZUE-CHAN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... I'VE NEVER SEEN MIZUE-CHAN SO HAPPY...
SAYOKO NEVER FAILS TO SURPRISE ME..
NO BOYS ALLOWED.
GOOD THING HE REFUSED, MIZUE-CHAN. THIS GAME IS JUST BETWEEN US GIRLS.
.....
Kyaa! Kyaa!

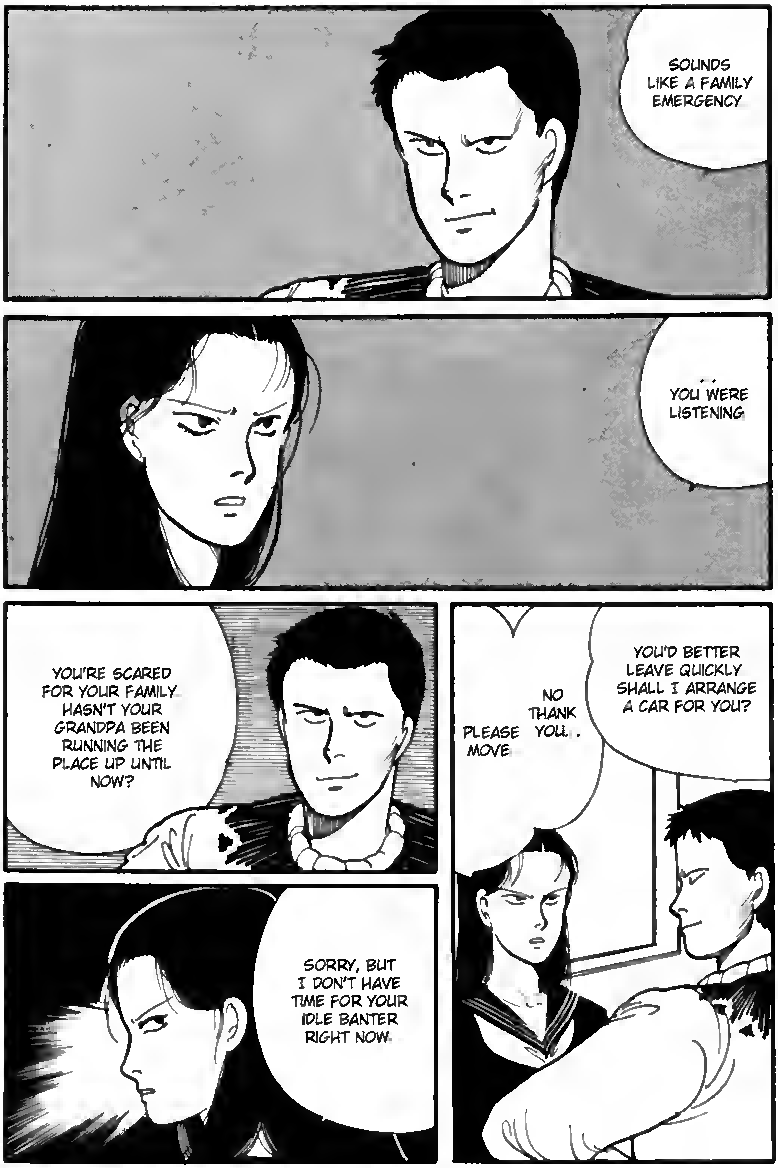
OH, YOU MEAN HISAKO?
UH-HUH, AND IT'S A GIRL!
NO. SHE'S ELEGANT AND VERY PRETTY, WITH LONG HAIR...
RYOU?
raffle raffle
YES, TO SEE RYOU.
HUH? IS SOMEONE VISITING?
WHAT...?
rustle

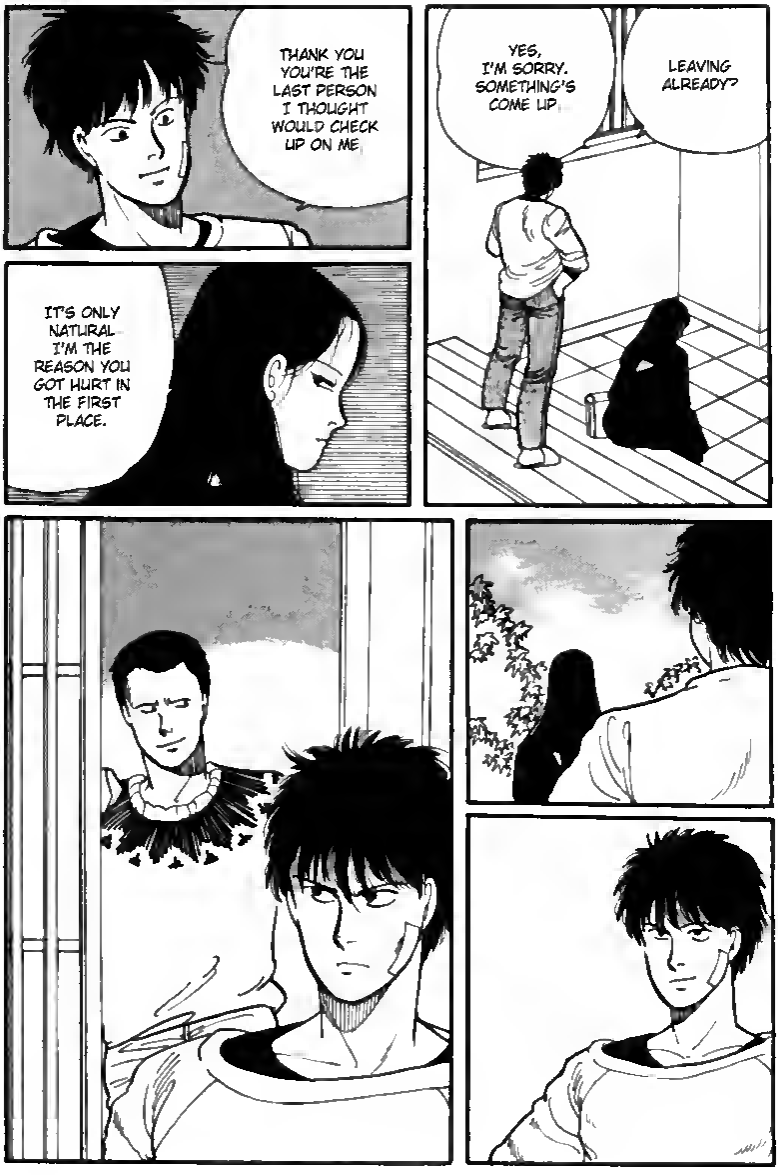
SAYO-
KO!
.....
THOSE TWO
HAVEN'T LEARNED
A THING ..
..
TCHE!
FUCK!

..DAMN IT. THEY MUST TAKE ME FOR A FOOL...!
IT SOUNDED URGENT.
I'M NOT SURE IT'S A CALL FROM THE GIRL'S FAMILY
WHAT IS IT?
ガチャ
rattle
KANOU-SAMA? YES .. YES, SHE'S HERE. ONE MOMENT, PLEASE .
... URGENT?

AH, THANK YOU FOR INFORMING ME
FROM HER FAMILY?
AND THEY BOTHERED TO CALL HER HERE?
HELLO?
AH, YUKI-MASA...
ガラ/open
..EH?!

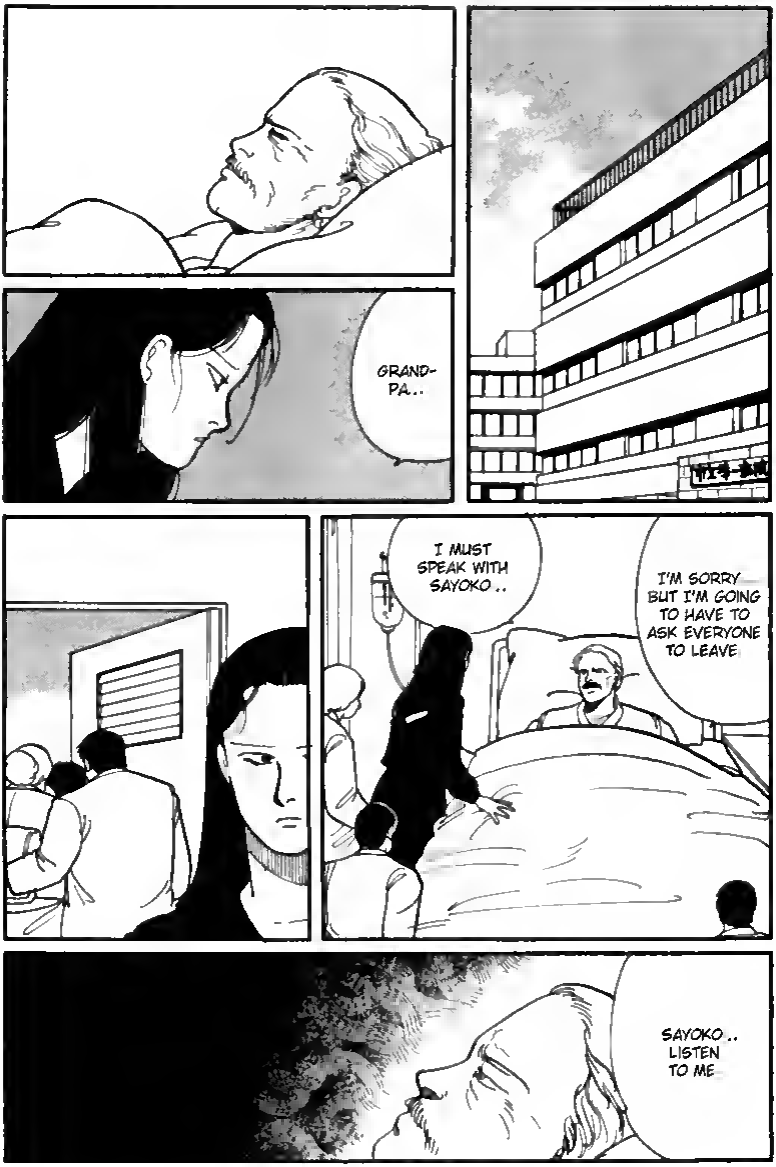

……
ガチャン
CLICK
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
I WAS PREPARED FOR THIS, BUT I NEVER IMAGINED IT'D HAPPEN SO SOON..
YO...
ガタ
RATTLE!

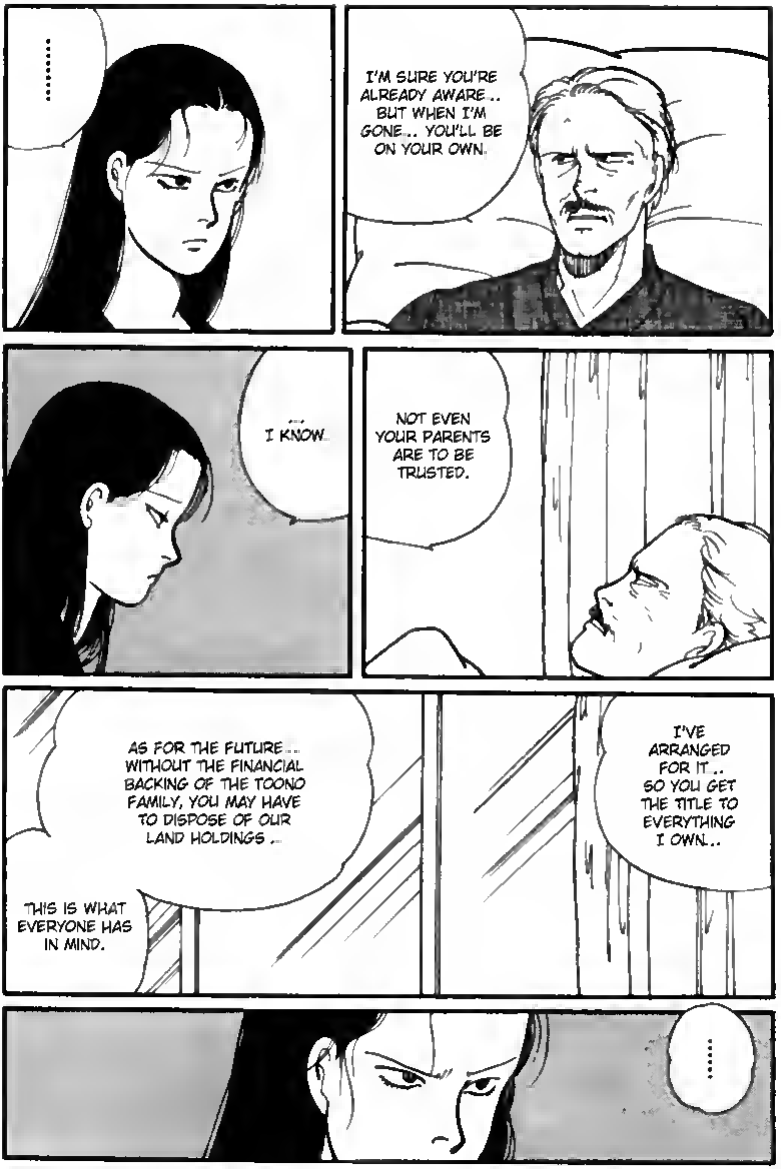

SOUNDS LIKE A FAMILY EMERGENCY
YOU WERE LISTENING
YOU'RE SCARED FOR YOUR FAMILY HASN'T YOUR GRANDPA BEEN RUNNING THE PLACE UP UNTIL NOW?
YOU'D BETTER LEAVE QUICKLY SHALL I ARRANGE A CAR FOR YOU?
NO THANK YOU..
PLEASE MOVE
SORRY, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR IDLE BANTER RIGHT NOW.

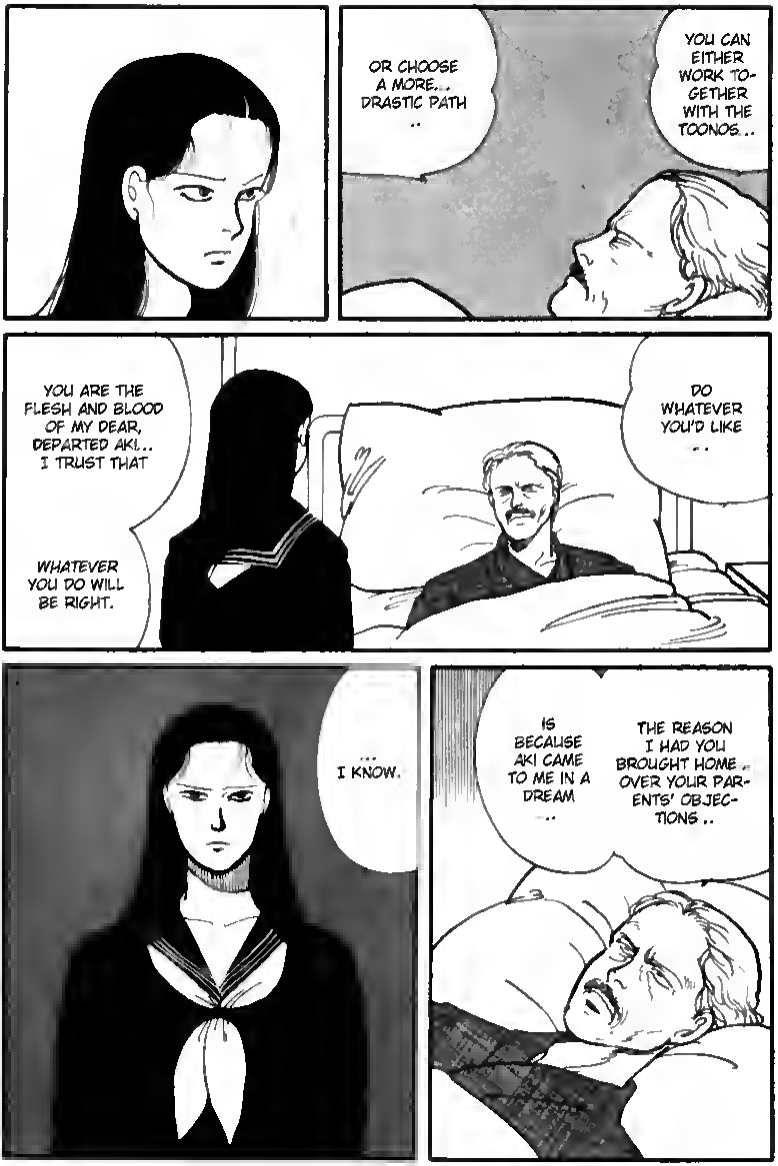

THANK YOU YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I THOUGHT WOULD CHECK UP ON ME
IT'S ONLY NATURAL I'M THE REASON YOU GOT HURT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YES, I'M SORRY. SOMETHING'S COME UP.
LEAVING ALREADY?

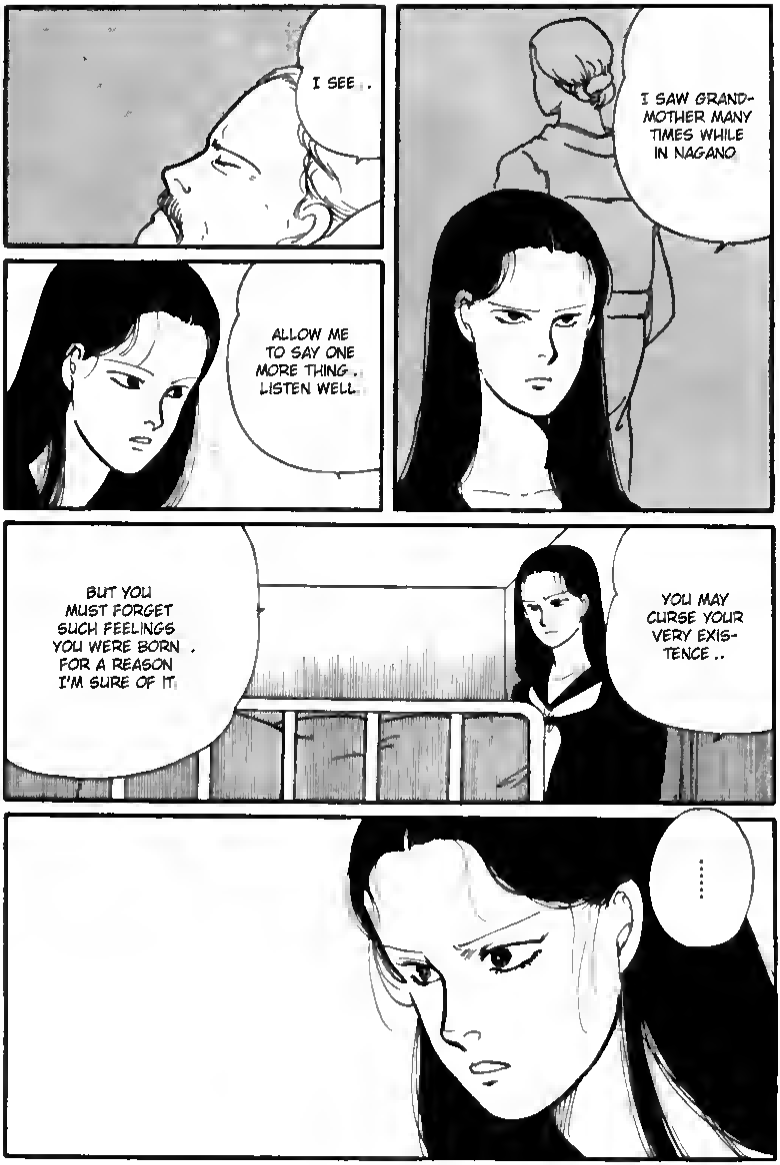
...
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE
HOW'RE YOUR WOUNDS HEALING?
HER GRAMPS IS ABOUT TO DIE.
WHY DO YOU THINK SHE RAN AWAY IN SUCH A HURRY?
BEATS ME. HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
HE'S IN CRITICAL CONDI-TION.
THAT PHONE CALL CAME FROM THE HOSPITAL HE'S STAYING AT.
EH?!

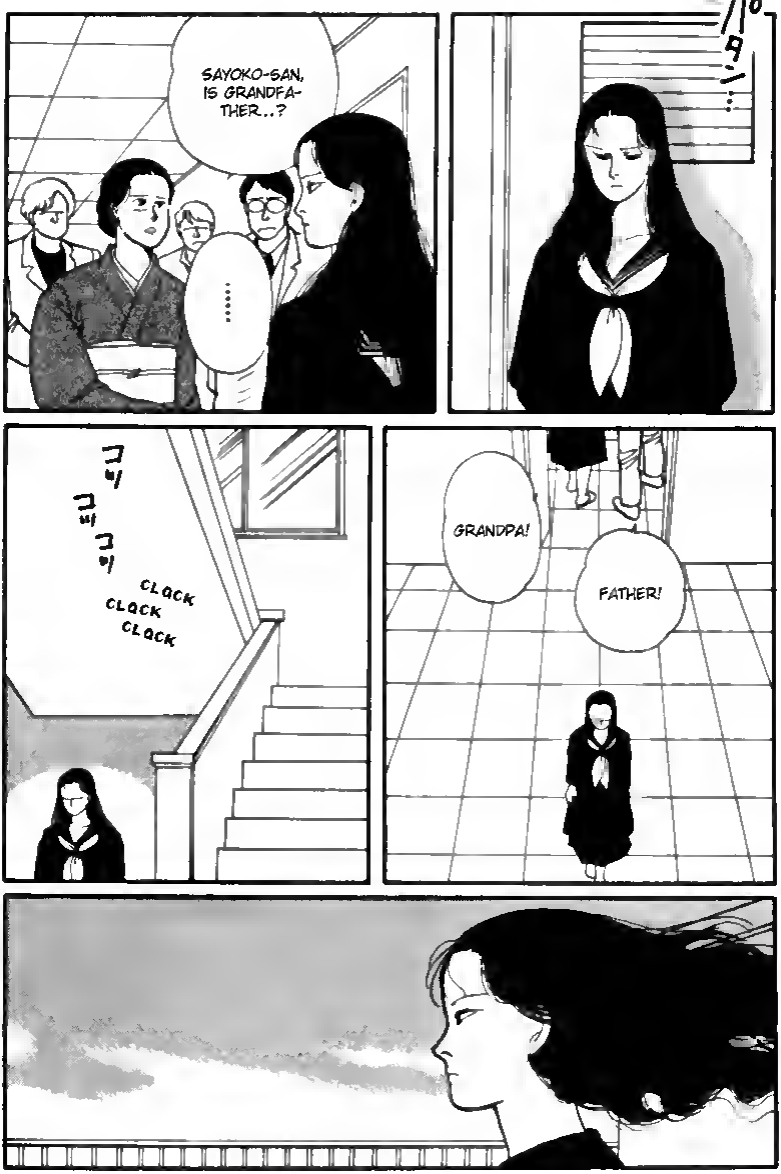
!
ONCE HE DIES, AUNT UKIKO WILL GAIN FREE REIGN OVER THE FAMILY.
HOW ABOUT IT? WILL YOU BE HER KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR?
IN OTHER WORDS, THE LITTLE PRINCESS WILL LOSE HER FINAL STRONG-HOLD.
.....

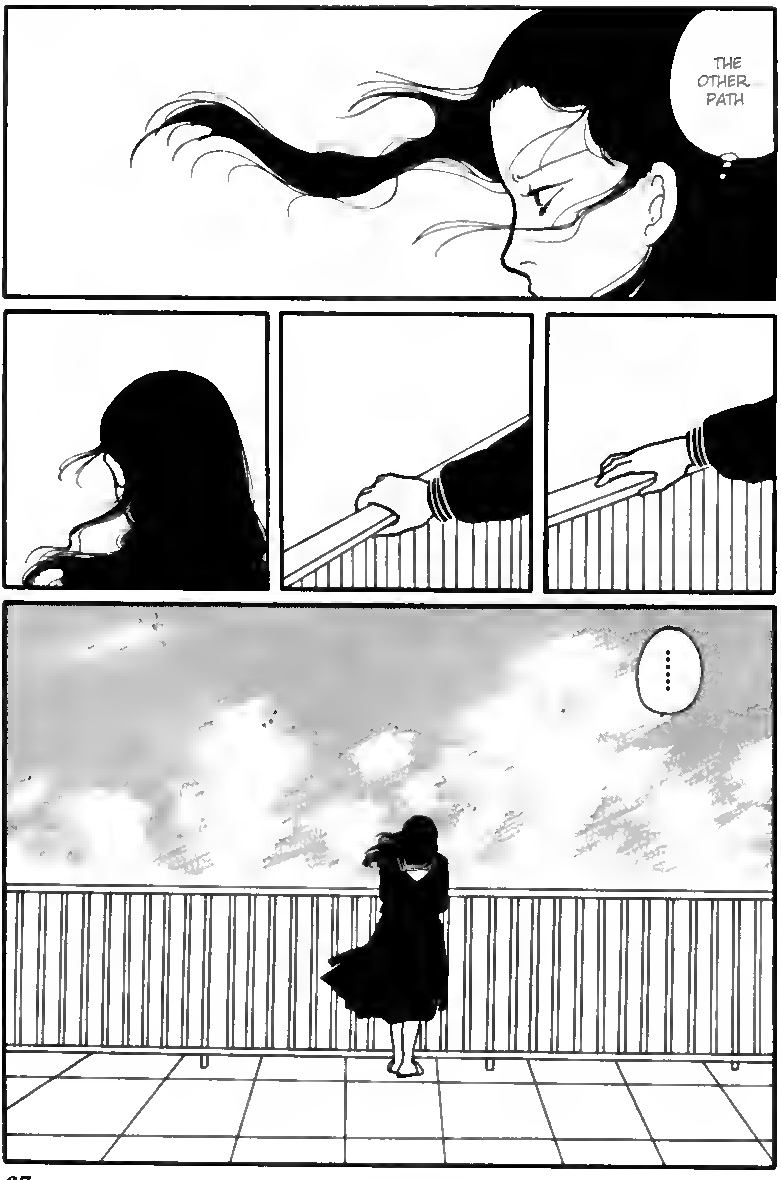

GRAND-PA..
I MUST SPEAK WITH SAYOKO..
I'M SORRY BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK EVERYONE TO LEAVE
SAYOKO.. LISTEN TO ME

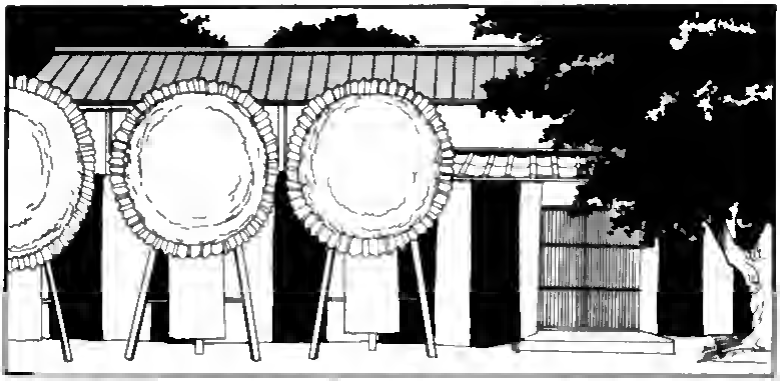

……
I'M SURE YOU'RE ALREADY AWARE.. BUT WHEN I'M GONE.. YOU'LL BE ON YOUR OWN.
…, I KNOW.
NOT EVEN YOUR PARENTS ARE TO BE TRUSTED.
AS FOR THE FUTURE.. WITHOUT THE FINANCIAL BACKING OF THE TOONO FAMILY, YOU MAY HAVE TO DISPOSE OF OUR LAND HOLDINGS..
THIS IS WHAT EVERYONE HAS IN MIND.
I'VE ARRANGED FOR IT.. SO YOU GET THE TITLE TO EVERYTHING I OWN..
……


OR CHOOSE A MORE... DRASTIC PATH ..
YOU CAN EITHER WORK TOGETHER WITH THE TOONOS..
YOU ARE THE FLESH AND BLOOD OF MY DEAR, DEPARTED AKI... I TRUST THAT
WHATEVER YOU DO WILL BE RIGHT.
DO WHATEVER YOU'D LIKE ..
... I KNOW.
IS BECAUSE AKI CAME TO ME IN A DREAM ...
THE REASON I HAD YOU BROUGHT HOME OVER YOUR PARENTS' OBJECTIONS ..


I SEE..
I SAW GRAND-MOTHER MANY TIMES WHILE IN NAGANO
ALLOW ME TO SAY ONE MORE THING. LISTEN WELL.
BUT YOU MUST FORGET SUCH FEELINGS YOU WERE BORN FOR A REASON I'M SURE OF IT.
YOU MAY CURSE YOUR VERY EXIS-TENCE..
.....


SAYOKO-SAN, IS GRANDFA-THER..?
.....
CLOSE
!!
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
GRANDPA!
FATHER!


THE OTHER PATH
……

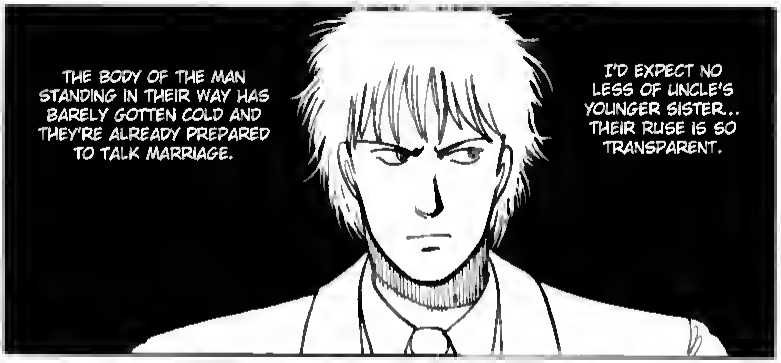


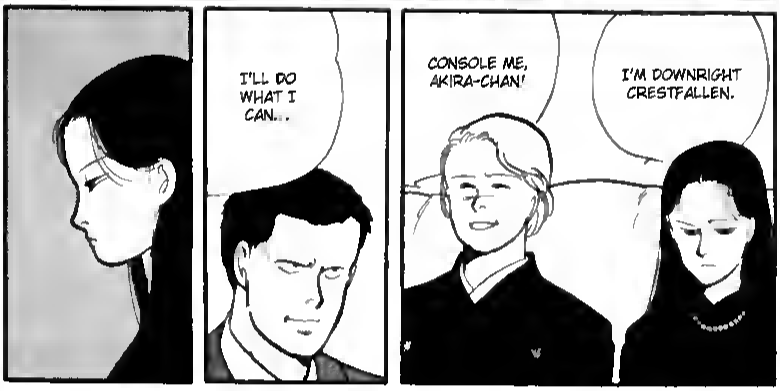
WHERE THE HELL IS HE?
WHAT ABOUT AKIRA...?

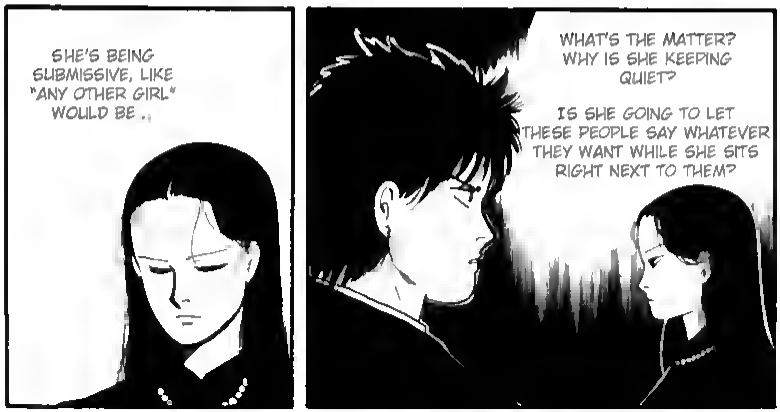
THERE'RE SOME BIG NAMES HERE.

TOONO-SAN HAS ARRIVED. MISS IKIKO WOULD LIKE YOU TO COME TO THE RECEPTION HALL
MISS KANOU
I SEE. I'LL BE THERE STRAIGHT AWAY
.....

HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED.
HE LEFT THIS WORLD ALL TOO SOON.
I'M SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS ..
POOR SAYOKO-SAN MUST BE ESPECIALLY HEART-BROKEN.
NO NO, IT'S NOTHING.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, TOONO-SAN.
YEAH RIGHT, YOU HAG.
THOUGH I, TOO, CAN BARELY TOLERATE MY OWN SADNESS, BROTHER.
OF COURSE, STEPFATHER WAS VERY AFFECTIONATE TOWARDS HER.


THE BODY OF THE MAN STANDING IN THEIR WAY HAS BARELY GOTTEN COLD AND THEY'RE ALREADY PREPARED TO TALK MARRIAGE.
I'D EXPECT NO LESS OF UNCLE'S YOUNGER SISTER.. THEIR RUSE IS SO TRANSPARENT.

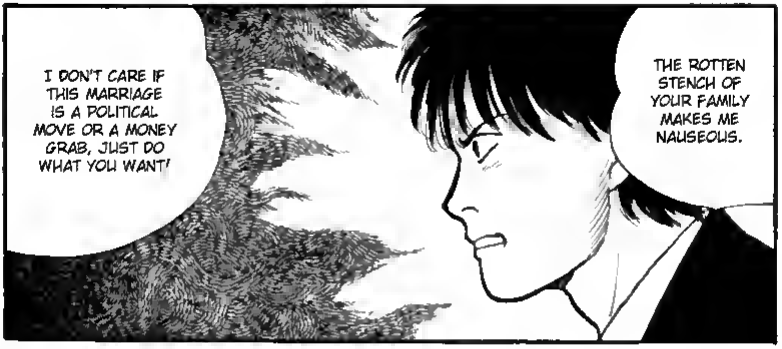

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN...
CONSOLE ME, AKIRA-CHAN!
I'M DOWNRIGHT CRESTFALLEN.

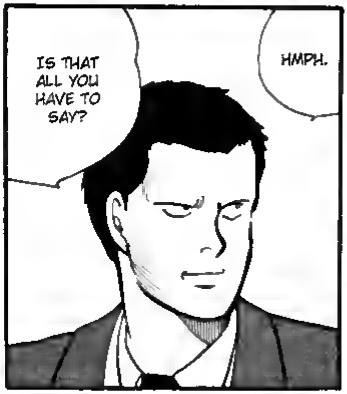

SHE'S BEING SUBMISSIVE, LIKE "ANY OTHER GIRL" WOULD BE..
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY IS SHE KEEPING QUIET?
IS SHE GOING TO LET THESE PEOPLE SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT WHILE SHE SITS RIGHT NEXT TO THEM?

IS SHE DISHEARTENED NOW THAT SHE'S LOST HER PILLAR OF SUPPORT?
WHY DOESN'T SHE SPEAK UP? WHY IS SHE ALLOWING HERSELF TO BE CONTROLLED?
AND AKIRA, PERFECTLY CONTENT TO GO ALONG WITH THAT PLAN.
THEN THERE'S MY UNCLE AND AUNT UKIKO PLOTTING THE TAKEOVER OF THE FAMILY ASSETS.
THE TEXTBOOK OPPORTUNISTIC FATHER AND THE SHELTERED MOTHER WHO DOESN'T KNOW LEFT FROM RIGHT... I CAN'T BELIEVE THESE PEOPLE ARE HER PARENTS
MONSTERS, ALL OF THEM. THEY MAKE ME WANT TO PUKE.
SHE CAN'T BE THIS WEAK.
WHAT IS SHE THINKING...?

HOW ABOUT WHAT?
SO? HOW ABOUT THAT?
OI, RYOU.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, SAYOKO.
……
SHE'S AS GOOD AS DONE FOR.
YOU SAW HOW MISERABLE SHE LOOKED
DON'T YOU?
THEY SAY THAT GORGEOUS WOMEN CAVE IN EASILY GIVEN THE RIGHT PERSUASION, AND I'M INCLINED TO AGREE.

THOSE ARE BIG WORDS,
COMING FROM THE PATENT HOLDER ON WOMANIZING
YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A WOMAN WHEN SHE'S DOWN, THEN?
YOU'VE HIT ROCK-BOTTOM.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
I'VE NEVER EXPLOITED A WOMAN'S WEAKNESS AGAINST HER.
CAN'T SAY I HAVEN'T BEEN TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF MYSELF AT A CERTAIN SOMEONE'S SUGGESTION, THOUGH
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU.
I'M SICK OF YOUR GAMES!
AKIRA!
AT ANY RATE, IT SEEMS THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME TO TEACH THAT GIRL A LESSON ONCE AND FOR ALL


I DON'T CARE IF THIS MARRIAGE IS A POLITICAL MOVE OR A MONEY GRAB, JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT!
THE ROTTEN STENCH OF YOUR FAMILY MAKES ME NAUSEOUS.


IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?
HMPH.

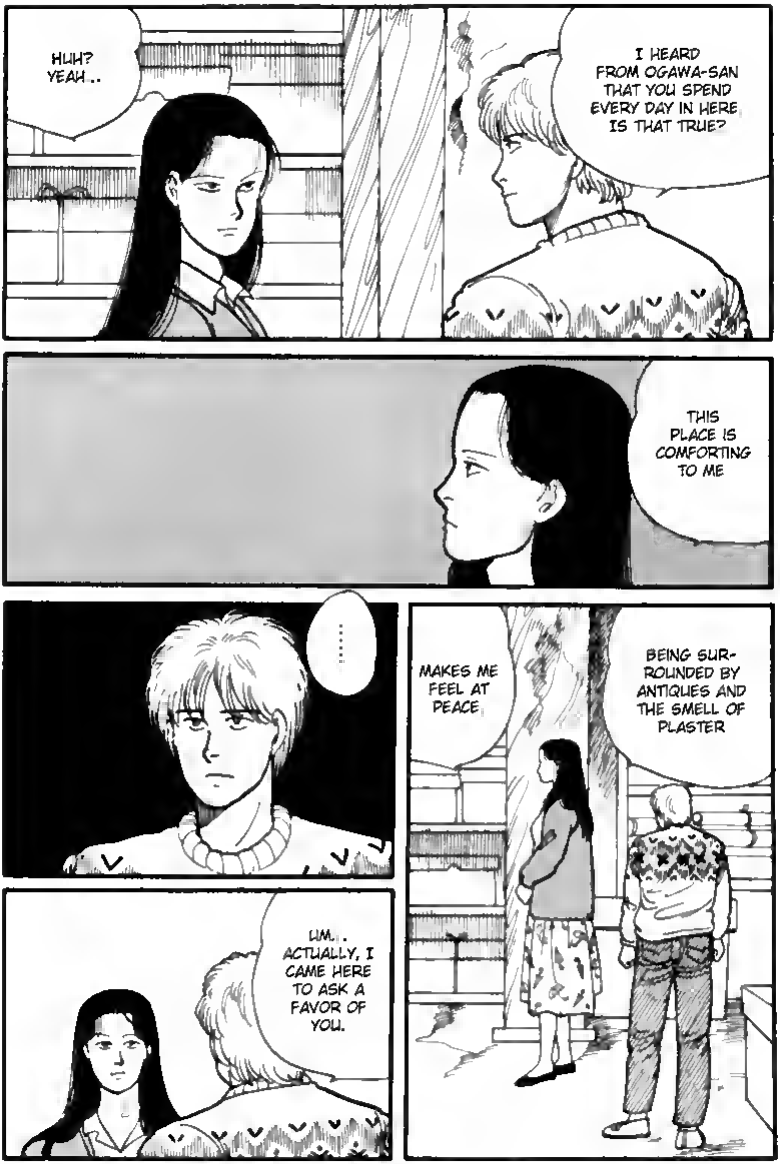
I WON'T BE YOUR PUPPET ANY LONGER!
YOU CAN EVEN TOSS MY SISTER AND ME TO THE SIDE, FOR ALL I CARE

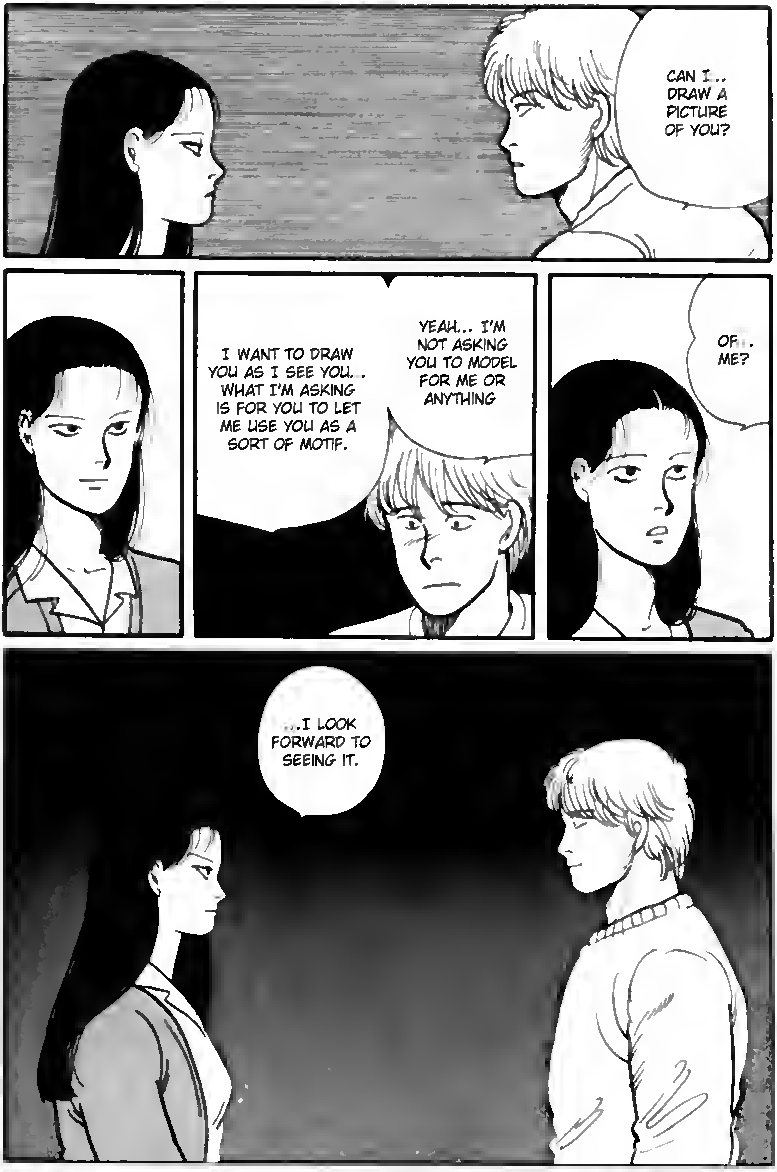
TRY NOT TO BE SO TOUCHY, EH?
MY OLD MAN LIKES YOU. HECK, SO DO I... I THINK OF YOU AS A LITTLE BROTHER, YOU KNOW?

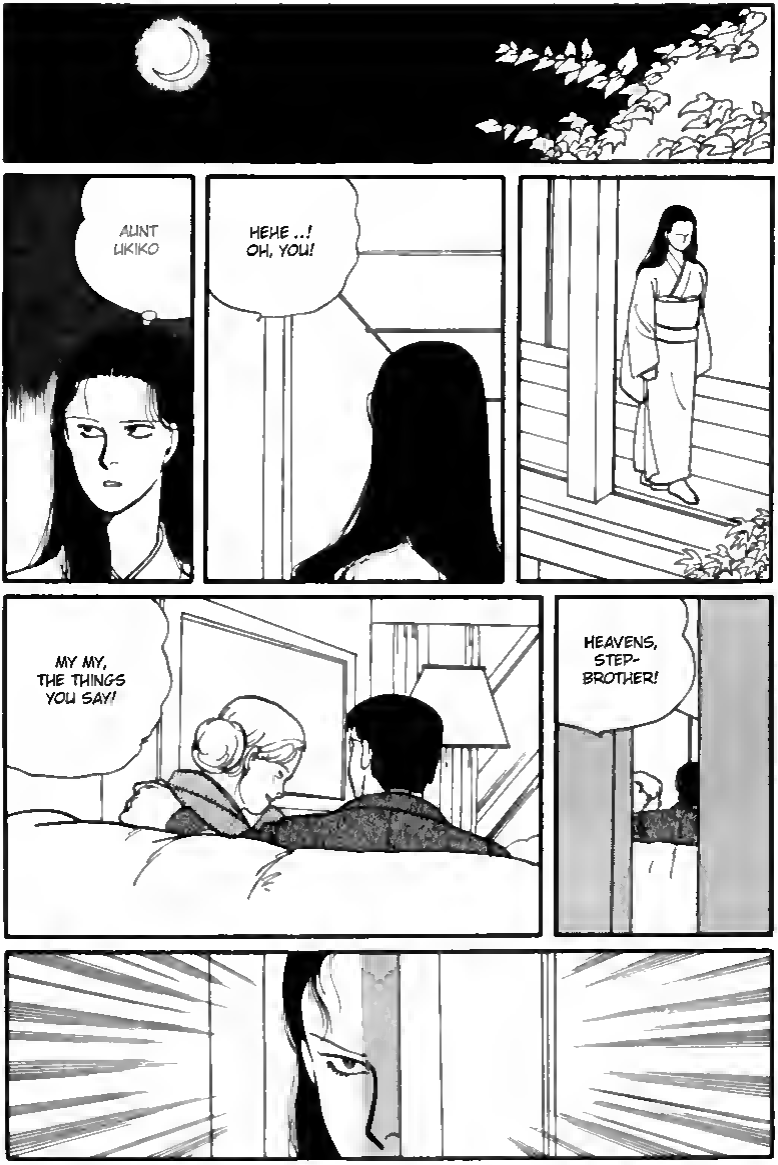
YOU'RE BEING SELFISH. TAKE SOME TIME TO COOL OFF.
YOU MAY BE FINE ON YOUR OWN... BUT WHAT ABOUT MIZUE-CHAN?
.....

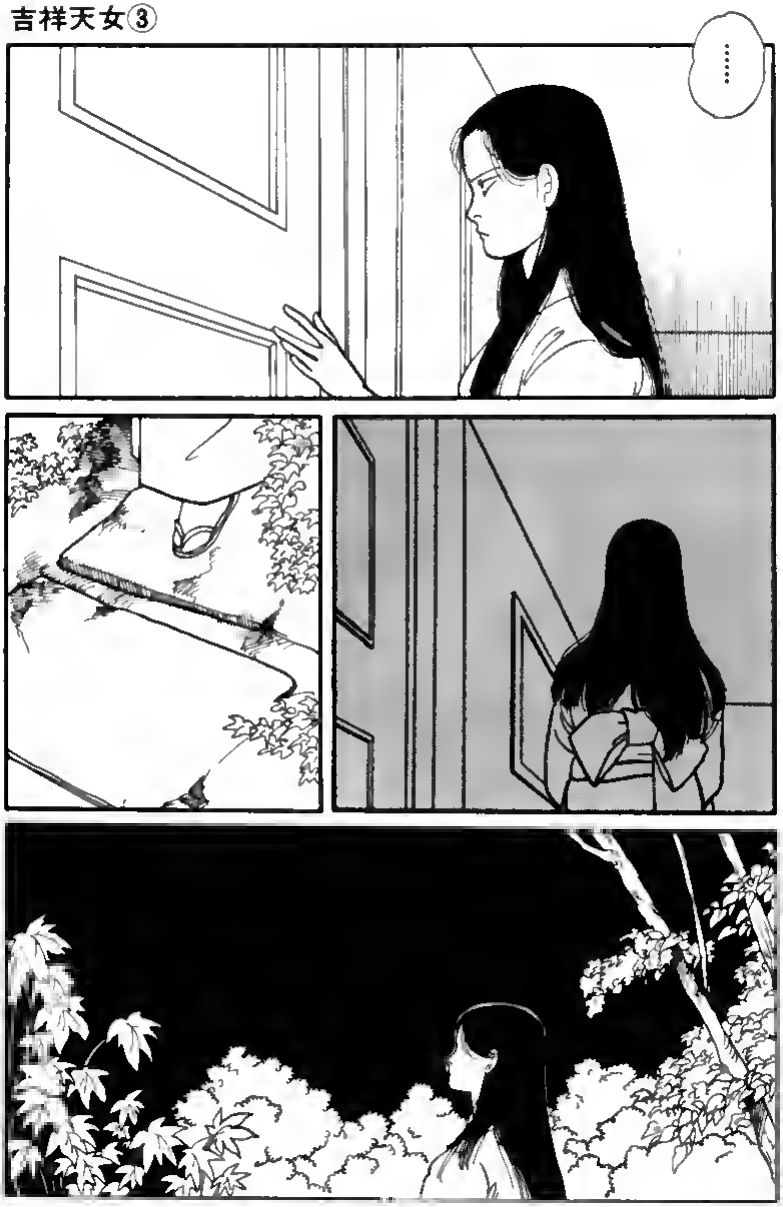
EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET THE GIRL THIS TIME AROUND, MY OLD MAN WILL STILL SET YOU UP WITH A NICE FAMILY SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE
!
...I WANT TO KILL THE BOTH OF YOU
YOU NEVER HAD THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM, RYOU .. SAME AS SAYOKO.
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE.

UHHH ..
OH...! YUIKO'S BROTHER ...
HELLO. LONG TIME NO SEE.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT! NOW I REMEMBER.
TAKASHI. HEH HEH.
YEAH... IT HAPPENED SO QUICKLY.
SORRY ABOUT YOUR GRANDFA-THER..
.....
I HEAR YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO SCHOOL FOR A WEEK NOW .. YUIKO'S WORRIED TOO, YOU KNOW

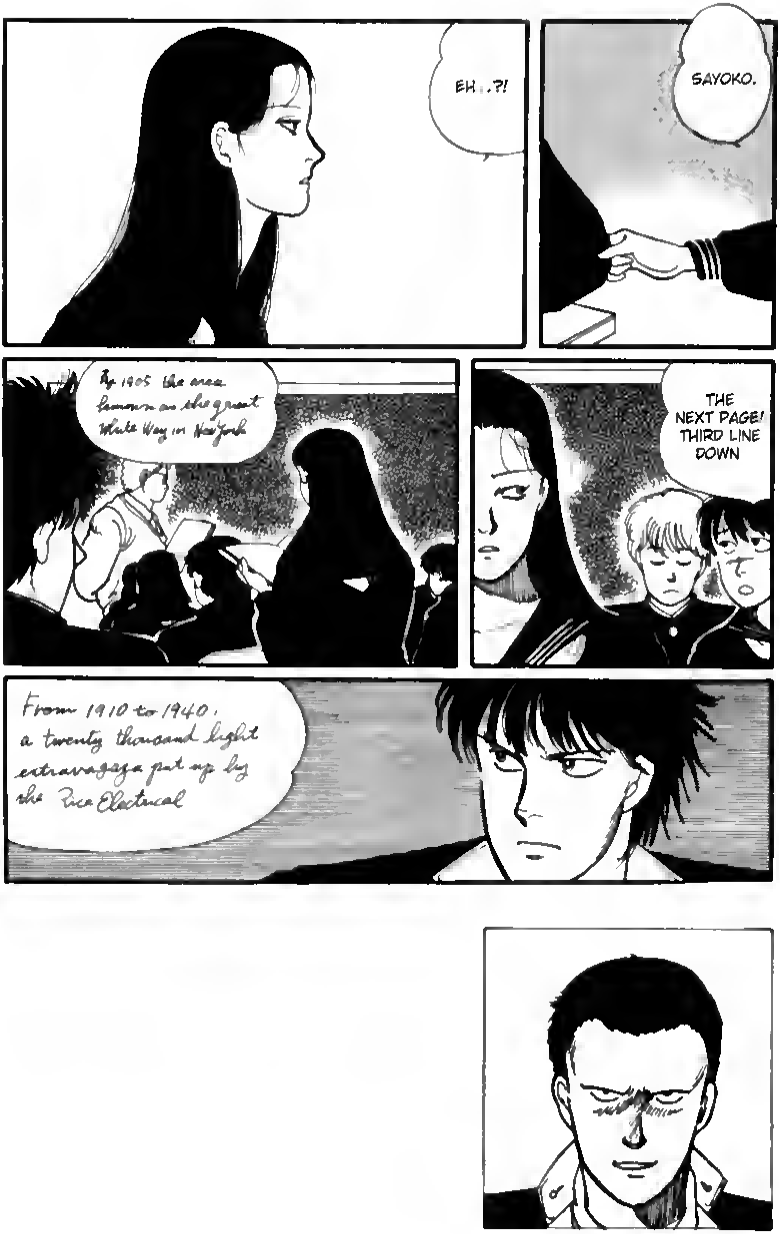

HUH? YEAH..
I HEARD FROM OGAWA-SAN THAT YOU SPEND EVERY DAY IN HERE. IS THAT TRUE?
THIS PLACE IS COMFORTING TO ME
.....
MAKES ME FEEL AT PEACE.
BEING SURROUNDED BY ANTIQUES AND THE SMELL OF PLASTER
UM.. ACTUALLY, I CAME HERE TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOU.


CAN I.. DRAW A PICTURE OF YOU?
OF.. ME?
YEAH.. I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO MODEL FOR ME OR ANYTHING
I WANT TO DRAW YOU AS I SEE YOU.. WHAT I'M ASKING IS FOR YOU TO LET ME USE YOU AS A SORT OF MOTIF.
..I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING IT.


AUNT LIKIKO
HEHE ..! OH, YOU!
MY MY, THE THINGS YOU SAY!
HEAVENS, STEP-BROTHER!



rustle
rustle
rustle
wssh wssh


EH..?!
SAYOKO.
By 1905 the area became one of the great White Way in New York
THE NEXT PAGE! THIRD LINE DOWN
From 1910 to 1940, a twenty thousand light extravaganza put up by the Rice Electrical

YEAH...
SHE SEEMS DOWN...
.....
"SOUNDS LIKE MY OLD MAN AND AUNT UKIKO PLAN ON GETTING ME AND SAYOKO HITCHED."
"HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS, RYOU?"

TCHE ..!
I CAN'T SEE HER ALLOWING HERSELF TO BE CONTROLLED BY THESE PEOPLE
DOES SHE REALLY INTEND TO GO ALONG WITH SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS ..?
TOONO-KUN
... BEATS ME.
HEY, TOONO-KUN. WHAT'S GOING ON WITH SAYOKO? SHE'S BEEN DOWN IN THE DUMPS EVER SINCE HER GRANDPA DIED.
AAAH... EVERYONE'S GROUCHY...
ARGH! WHAT'S HIS DEAL?! HE THINKS HE'S SUCH A BIG SHOT!
LEAVE ME ALONE! IT'S NOT LIKE I KEEP TRACK OF HER EVERY FREAKING DETAIL!
clatter
BUT YOU SEEM CLOSEST TO HER, TOONO-KUN. DON'T YOU HAVE SOME IDEA?

OGAWA-SAN! OVER HERE! OVER HERE!
CREAK
I ACTUALLY HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU AS WELL, SO THIS WORKS OUT FINE FOR ME TOO.
I WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME.
HEY, THANKS FOR COMING OUT.
LATER. FOR NOW, I'D RATHER HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.
WHAT IS IT?
SHOW? ME?

HOW'S SAYOKO-SAN?
..NO NEED TO ASK ME THAT
YOU SEE HER AT SCHOOL EVERY DAY.
I GUESS SO..
BUT I DON'T ALWAYS SPEAK WITH HER
WHY NOT? AREN'T YOU IN THE SAME CLASS?
SHE'S BEEN DEPRESSED LATELY. NOT EXACTLY AN IDEAL ATMOSPHERE FOR STARTING CONVERSATIONS.
.....
..THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT TO ASK ME, IS IT?

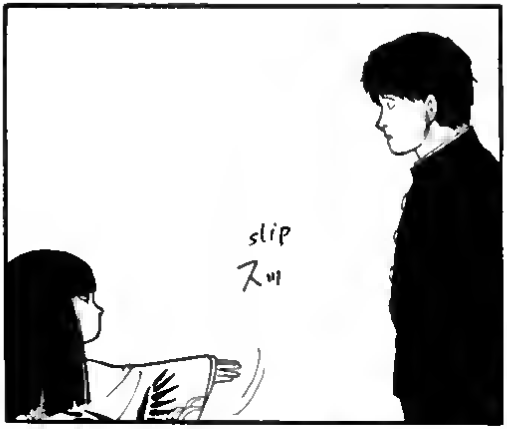
I DON'T KNOW...
...DOES SHE ACTUALLY INTEND TO GET ENGAGED TO AKIRA?
AND WHAT DO YOU STAND TO GAIN BY ASKING ME ABOUT IT?
DON'T LIE TO ME! THERE'S NO WAY YOU DON'T KNOW!
YOU'RE ONE STRANGE GUY, OGAWA-SAN.
!
YOU CAN'T CHANGE ANYTHING BY KNOWING THE ANSWER, CAN YOU?

IF YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HER, SURELY YOU CAN'T STAND TO SIT BACK AND LET THIS HAPPEN.
WHO SAID I LOVE HER?
ISN'T YOUR IMAGINATION RUNNING AWAY WITH YOU A LITTLE, THERE?
WHAT ARE YOU TO HER, EXACTLY?
SAYOKO SEEMS TO REALLY TRUST YOU
SINCE WHEN?
THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE WE WERE BROUGHT UP AS SIBLINGS FROM A YOUNG AGE.
... YOU SEEM AWFULLY INTERESTED.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW SO BADLY?
YEAH.

I FIRST MET HER WHEN I WAS 15 YEARS OLD.
MY FAMILY IS A BRANCH OF THE MAIN KANOU LINE ...
...
I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT THAT INTERESTING OF A STORY.

T/N Rather like the name implies, children of the ages seven, five, and three wear a kimono and visit a shrine on this day.

I ADMIT... I FELL FOR HER AT FIRST SIGHT... DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE WAS ONLY 7
SHE LOOKED LIKE A JAPANESE DOLL PERSONIFIED.
SHE WAS PRECISELY 7 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME, SO SHE HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE 7-5-3 FESTIVAL THAT DAY AND WAS IN HER BEST KIMONO.
SHE WAS BROUGHT TO MY HOME BY HER GRANDMOTHER... THE HEAD MISTRESS OF THE KANOU FAMILY AT THE TIME – KANOU AKI
HER NAME IS SAYOKO... I HOPE YOU TWO GET ALONG ALRIGHT.
YOU'RE YUKIMA-SA-KUN... RIGHT?
Y-YES!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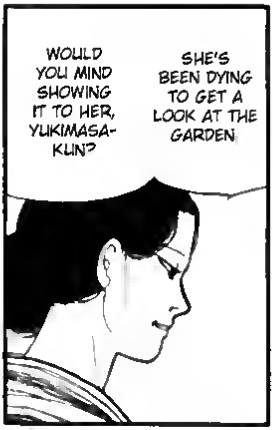
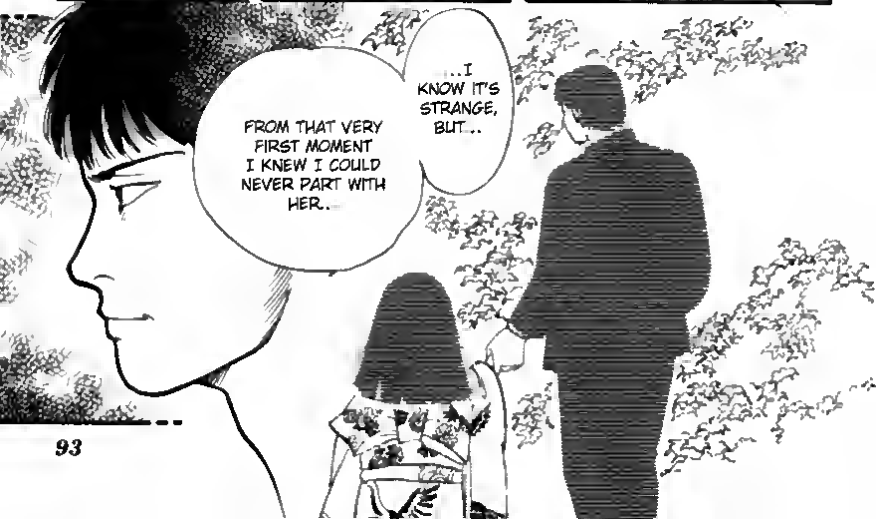
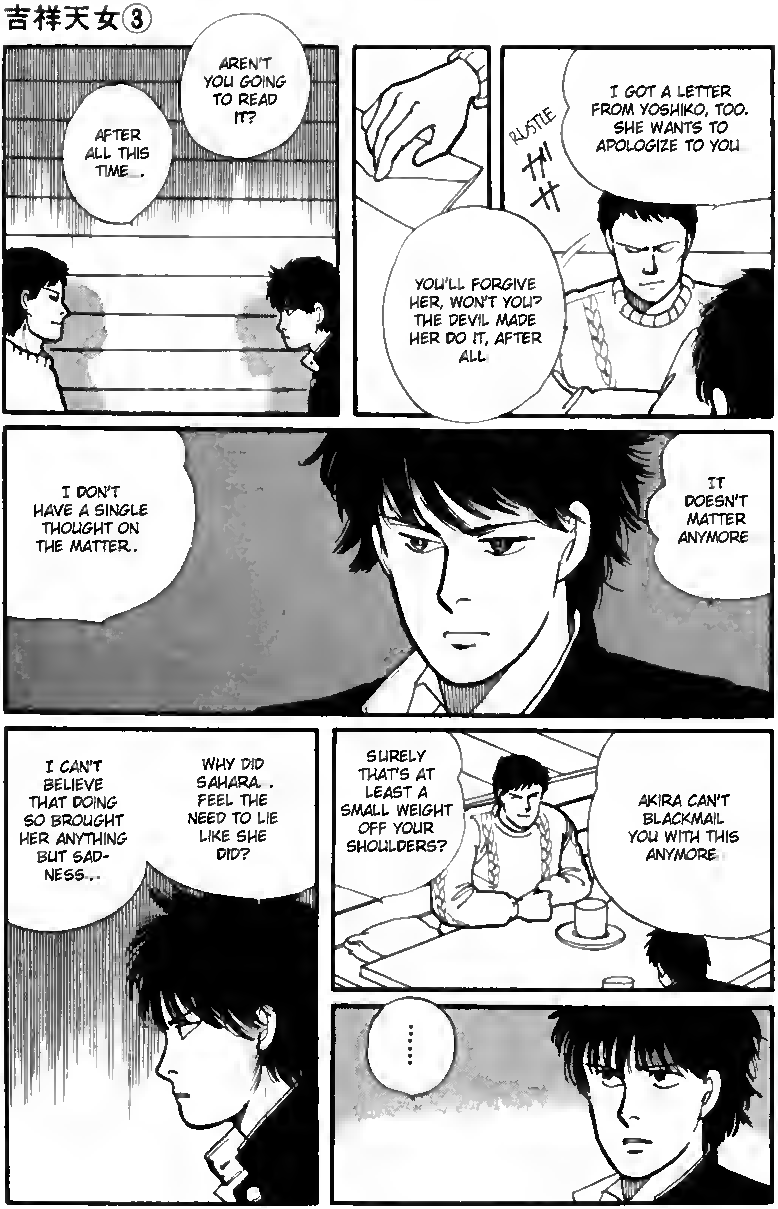

WOULD YOU MIND SHOWING IT TO HER, YUKIMASA-KUN?
SHE'S BEEN DYING TO GET A LOOK AT THE GARDEN.


FROM THAT VERY FIRST MOMENT I KNEW I COULD NEVER PART WITH HER..
...I KNOW IT'S STRANGE, BUT..

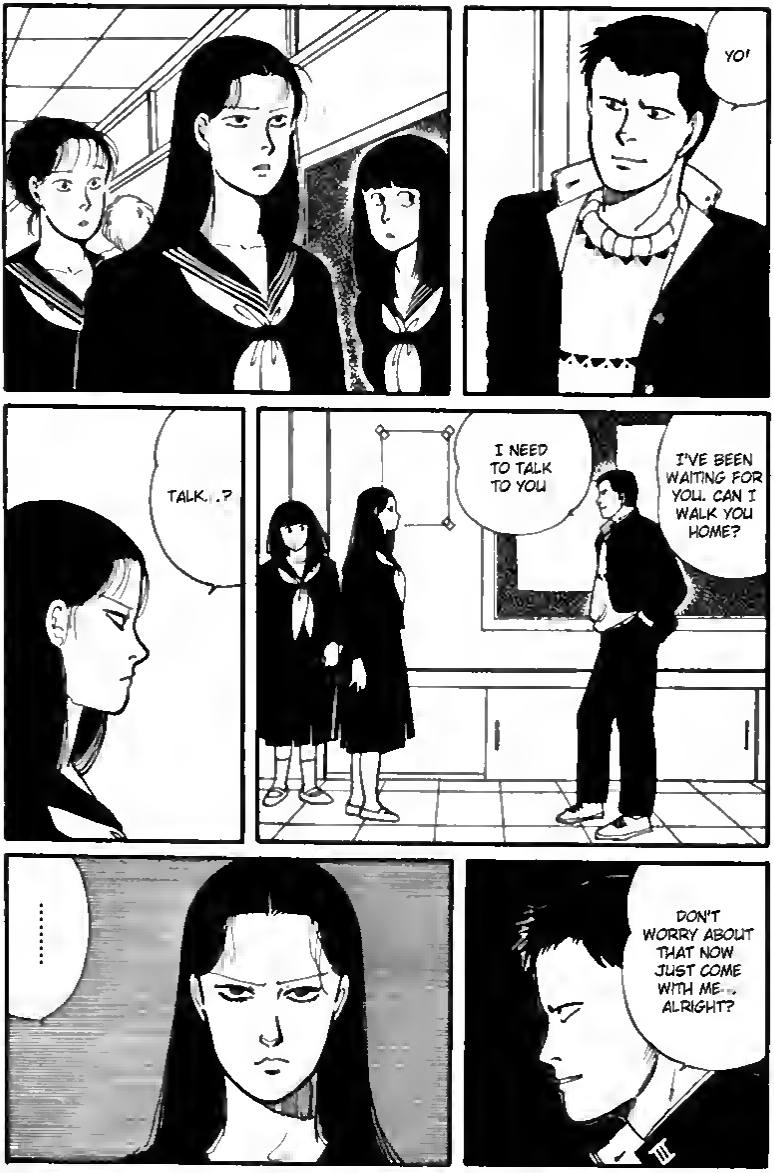
AH, THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO GIVE YOU.
.....
RUSTLE
?
GET RID OF IT AS SOON AS YOU GET THE CHANCE.
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, YOU WERE CLASSMATES YOUR THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
THE BOY IS YOU, AND THE GIRL IS SAHARA YOSHIKO
WHAT..?! WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS?!
!

AKIRA HELD A PARTY THAT DAY AND FORCED ENOUGH ALCOHOL ON YOU TO CAUSE YOU TO BLACK OUT.
I...
IMMEDIATELY AFTER GRADUATING TO HIGH SCHOOL THERE WAS AN UPROAR OVER YOU RAPING HER AND YOU BECAME UNABLE TO SHOW YOUR FACE THERE
.....
SHE THEN CLAIMED THAT YOU NEARLY RAPED HER. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
... WHEN YOU WOKE UP, SAHARA YOSHIKO WAS NAKED AND SOBBING BY YOUR SIDE...
I...
RYOU-KUN YOU FORCED ME TO !!
DIDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING .. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WENT ON ..

……
IT WOULD SEEM THERE'S A FAIR AMOUNT OF STRIFE BETWEEN YOU TWO.
I GUESS HE DIDN'T APPRECIATE YOU GETTING INTO A BETTER HIGH SCHOOL THAN HIM.
IT WAS ALL SET UP BY AKIRA…
BUT AT THE TIME YOU WERE SO ABSORBED IN YOUR HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS THAT YOU WOULDN'T EVEN GIVE HER A SECOND GLANCE
SAHARA YOSHIKO LIKED YOU,
…WHAT A TRANS-FORMA-TION YOU'VE MADE, HUH?
YEAH…
AKIRA HAS OFTEN USED THIS INCIDENT TO BLACKMAIL YOU, HASN'T HE?
THEY SAY THAT THE GREATEST HATE SPRINGS FROM THE GREATEST LOVE, AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOSHIKO WHEN YOU WOULDN'T GIVE HER THE TIME OF DAY.
AKIRA SPOTTED HER WEAKNESS AND SET HIS SIGHTS ON HER…
SHE WAS COMPLETELY TAKEN IN BY AKIRA'S SLICK TALK


AREN'T YOU GOING TO READ IT?
AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
RUSTLE
I GOT A LETTER FROM YOSHIKO, TOO. SHE WANTS TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU
YOU'LL FORGIVE HER, WON'T YOU? THE DEVIL MADE HER DO IT, AFTER ALL
I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE THOUGHT ON THE MATTER.
IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT DOING SO BROUGHT HER ANYTHING BUT SADNESS..
WHY DID SAHARA. . FEEL THE NEED TO LIE LIKE SHE DID?
SURELY THAT'S AT LEAST A SMALL WEIGHT OFF YOUR SHOULDERS?
AKIRA CAN'T BLACKMAIL YOU WITH THIS ANYMORE
.....

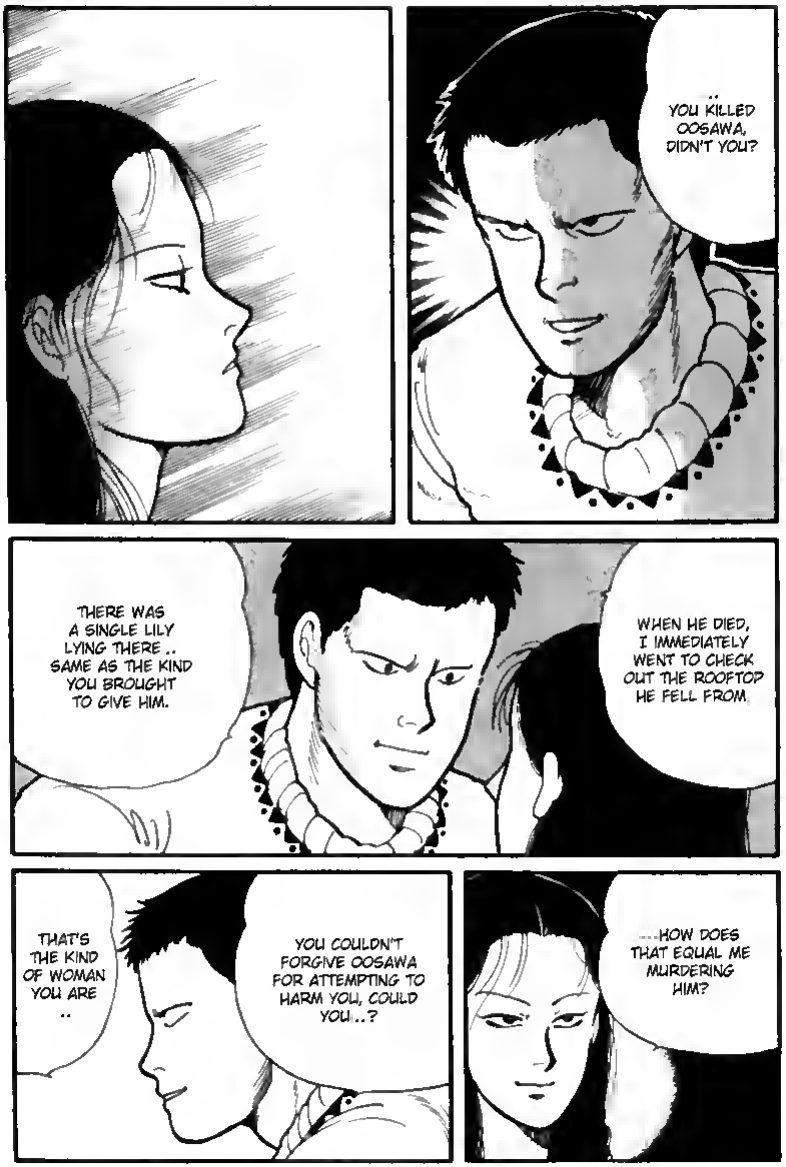
YOU'RE STILL A CHILD, THEN.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND WOMEN ...
SEE? THAT'S THE TEMPER TANTRUM OF A CHILD.
EASY DOES IT, BOY!
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?! ARE YOU GOING TO SIT BACK AND LET AKIRA HAVE HIS WAY WITH SAYOKO?!
!
YOU STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN.
YOU AND AKIRA

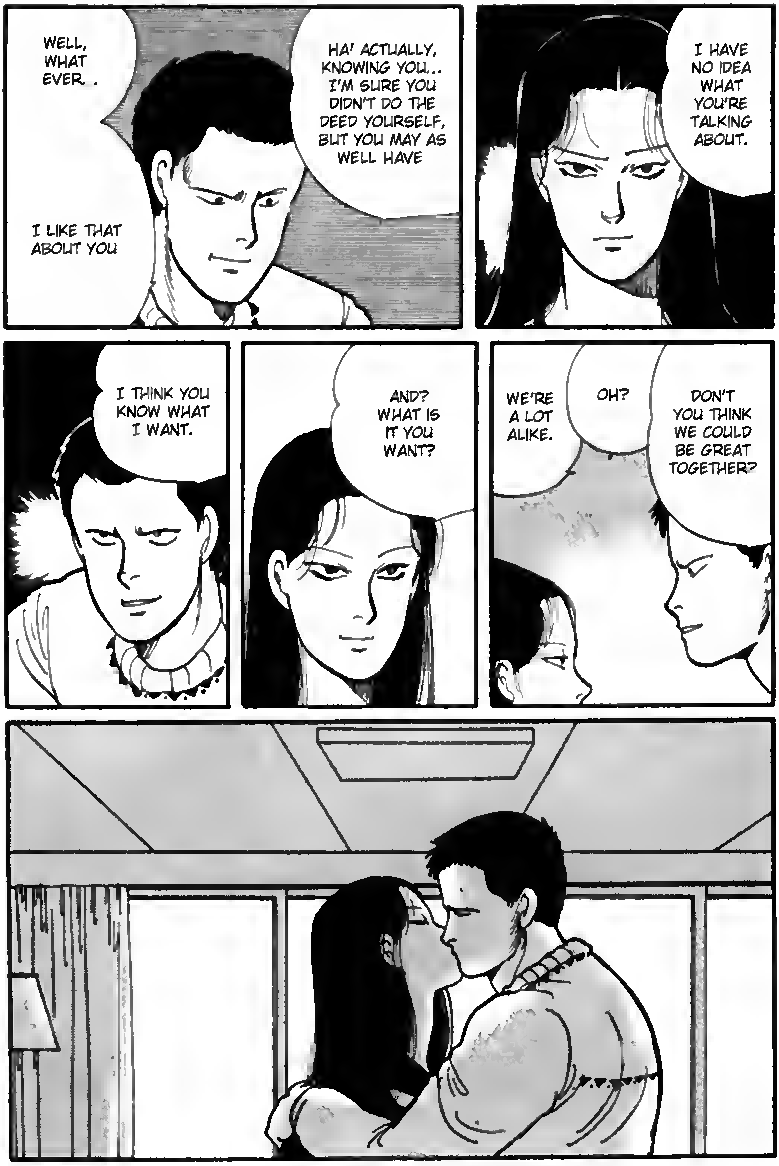

YO!
TALK...?
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. CAN I WALK YOU HOME?
.....
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW JUST COME WITH ME... ALRIGHT?

SHE'S SO LUCKY! PRETTY WOMEN GET ALL THE GUYS.
I WONDER IF HE LIKES SAYOKO, TOO?
.....
YEAH I MEAN, THEY CAME TO THE FLOWER-VIEWING PARTY TOGETHER AND ALL
EH? REALLY?
...HEY, THAT'S RYOU-KUN'S OLDER BROTHER, ISN'T IT?
DON'T WORRY, I GOT HER PERMISSION.
YEAH, THOUGH I'M ONLY USING HER FOR INSPIRATION.
EEEH?! YOU'RE GOING TO DRAW SAYOKO?!
?
...MEN! THEY THINK THEY'RE SO SMOOTH, BUT THEY'RE ABSOLUTELY HOPELESS!
I WANT TO MAKE THIS PICTURE FOR MY GRADUATION PROJECT
ANYWAY, I COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER SUBJECT I WONDER IF I CAN PROPERLY CAPTURE HER LIKENESS?

DON'T WANNA STAND AROUND OUT HERE, DO YOU?
MY PLACE IS JUST AHEAD, SO WHY DON'T YOU STOP BY FOR A BIT?
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
CAN'T SAY I CARE FOR IT
...YOU SEEM MORE RESERVED THAN USUAL TODAY.
I'M A NICE GUY AT HEART.
LOOKS LIKE WE MISUNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER UP UNTIL NOW..
EH?
YET YOU FOLLOWED ME OUT HERE EASILY ENOUGH.
A NICE GUY-. HUH-.?

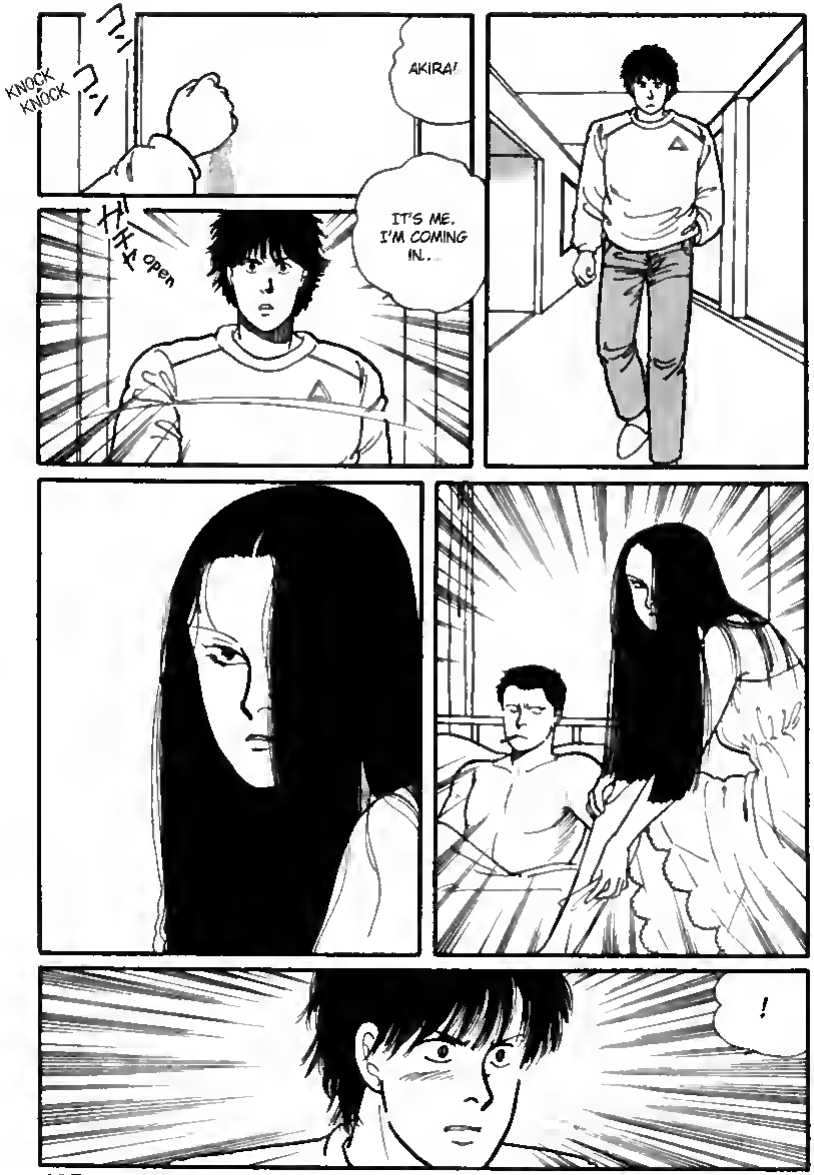
...
HOLD ON, NOT SO FAST.
I'M LEAVING.
SO THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED TO "TALK" ABOUT AFTER ALL ...?
IS THAT SO? I LOATHE YOU.
I'VE NEVER BEEN GIVEN SUCH A HARD TIME BY ANYONE BEFORE.
YOU SEE, I LIKE YOU.

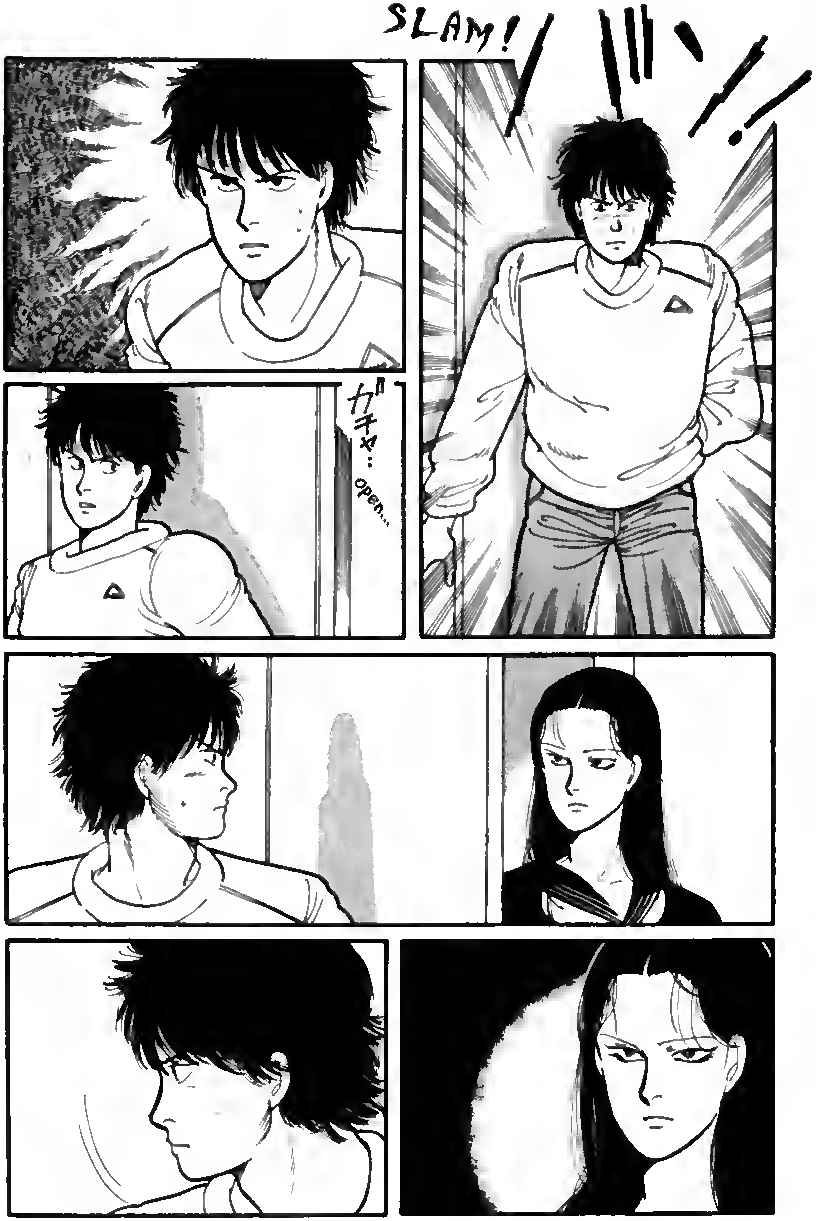

..
YOU KILLED OOSAWA, DIDN'T YOU?
WHEN HE DIED, I IMMEDIATELY WENT TO CHECK OUT THE ROOFTOP HE FELL FROM.
THERE WAS A SINGLE LILY LYING THERE.. SAME AS THE KIND YOU BROUGHT TO GIVE HIM.
YOU COULDN'T FORGIVE OOSAWA FOR ATTEMPTING TO HARM YOU, COULD YOU..?
THAT'S THE KIND OF WOMAN YOU ARE ..
....HOW DOES THAT EQUAL ME MURDERING HIM?

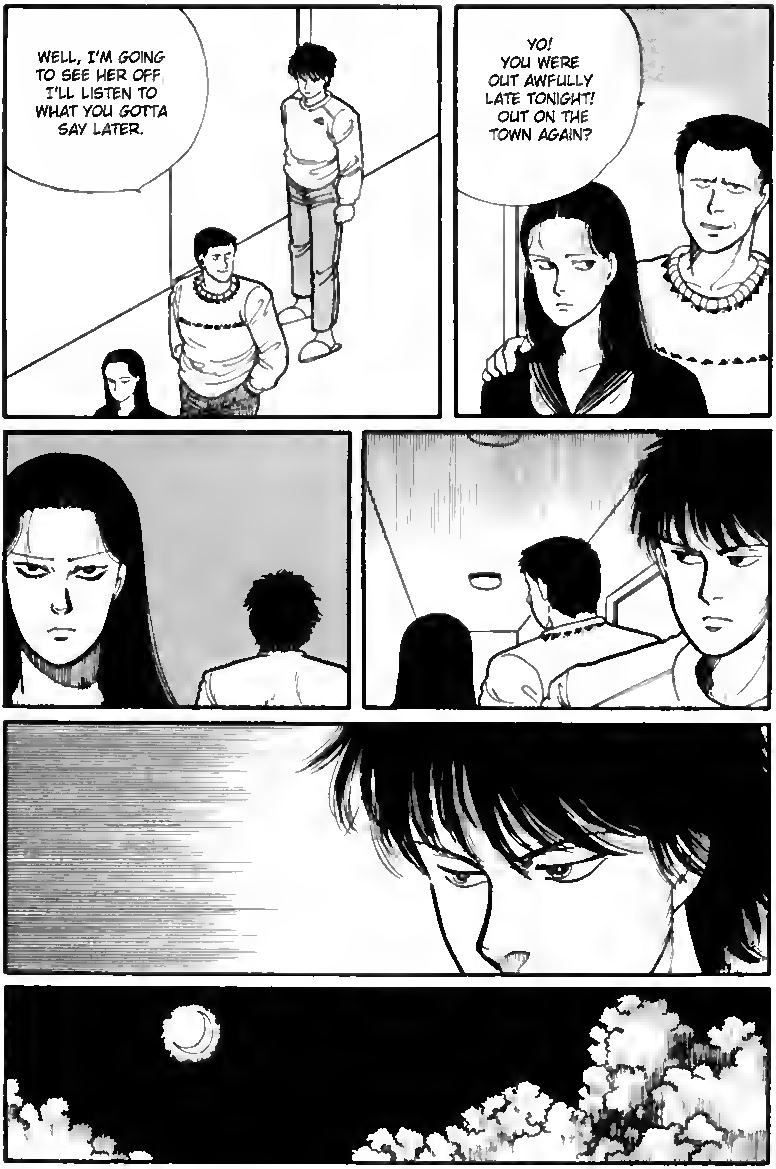

WELL, WHATEVER. .
I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU
HA! ACTUALLY, KNOWING YOU... I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T DO THE DEED YOURSELF, BUT YOU MAY AS WELL HAVE
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I THINK YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT.
AND? WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
WE'RE A LOT ALIKE.
OH?
DON'T YOU THINK WE COULD BE GREAT TOGETHER?

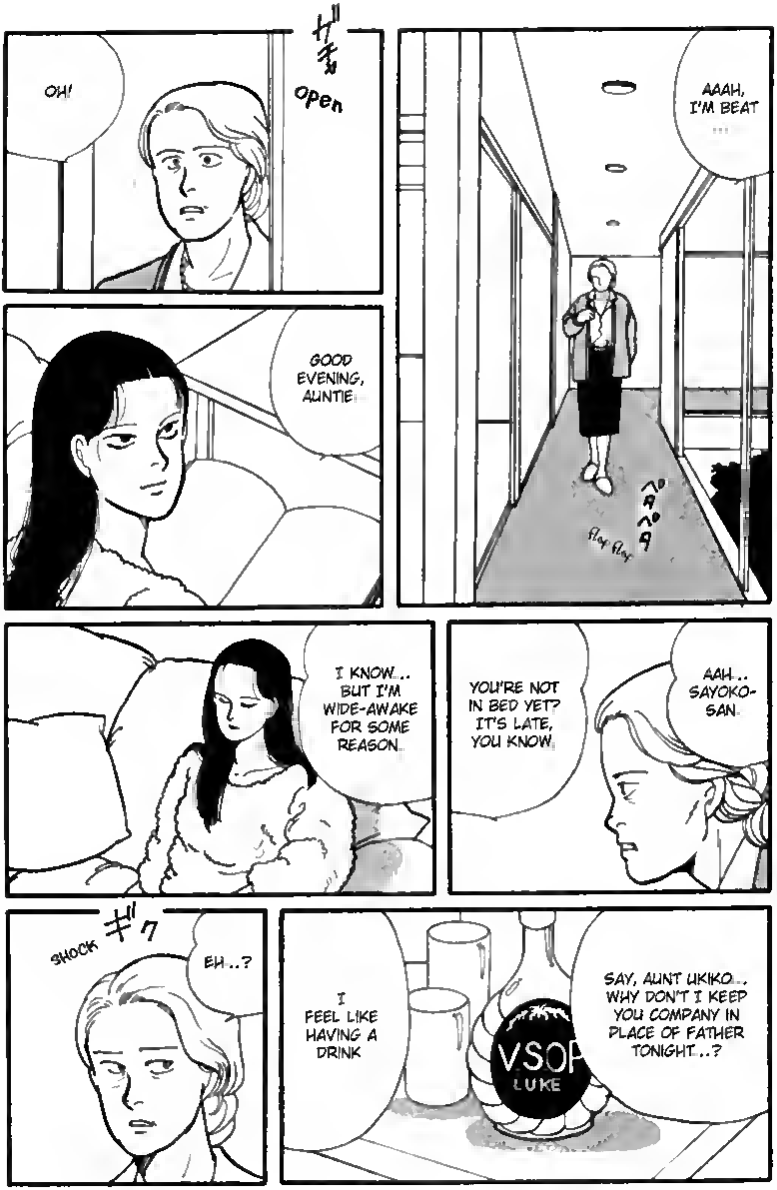
YOU'RE GORGEOUS... AKIRA..
AGH!
scratch

WHO WAS IT? SURELY, IT CAN'T BE RYOU...
EH?
THIS WASN'T YOUR FIRST TIME.
IT WASN'T YOUR FIRST TIME EITHER, WAS IT?


KNOCK KNOCK
AKIRA!
IT'S ME. I'M COMING IN.
open
!


SLAM!
ガチャ…
open…


WELL, I'M GOING TO SEE HER OFF. I'LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU GOTTA SAY LATER.
YO! YOU WERE OUT AWFULLY LATE TONIGHT! OUT ON THE TOWN AGAIN?


OH!
open
AAAH, I'M BEAT
GOOD EVENING, AUNTIE.
I KNOW... BUT I'M WIDE-AWAKE FOR SOME REASON.
YOU'RE NOT IN BED YET? IT'S LATE, YOU KNOW.
AAH... SAYOKO-SAN.
SHOCK
EH..?
I FEEL LIKE HAVING A DRINK
VSOP
LUKE
SAY, AUNT UKIKO... WHY DON'T I KEEP YOU COMPANY IN PLACE OF FATHER TONIGHT...?

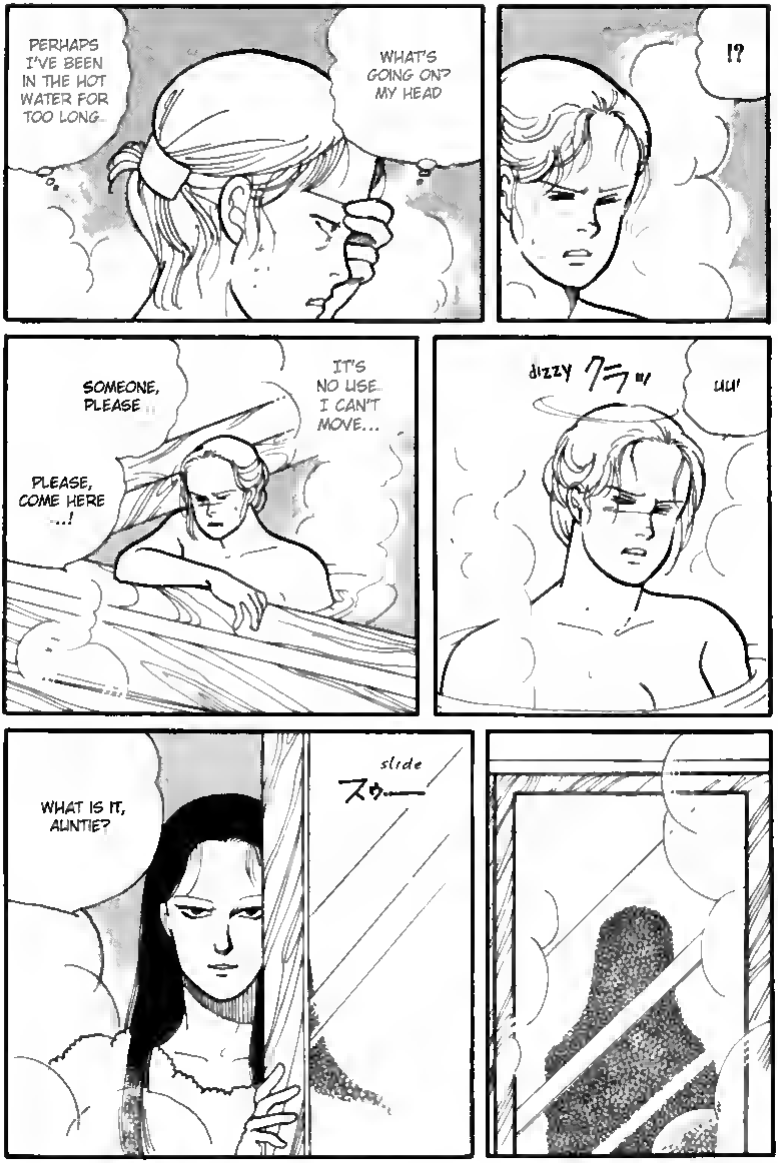
EITHER WAY, I'D BETTER HURRY UP AND SETTLE MATTERS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
I SWEAR, HER SENSE FOR THESE KINDS OF THINGS IS ALMOST UN-CANNY
..SAY, SAYOKO-SAN
I HEAR THAT YOU'RE SEEING AKIRA-CHAN IS THAT RIGHT?
SURELY SHE CAN'T KNOW ABOUT ME AND BROTHER-IN-LAW..
WHAT'S THIS GIRL THINK-ING ..?
I WON'T PUT MUCH LIQUOR IN.
V.S.O.P
...DID AKIRA-KUN TELL YOU THAT?
YOU COULD SAY THAT...
ANYWAY, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE A LITTLE GIRL ANYMORE .. HE'S A GOOD GUY, DON'T YOU THINK?
EH? WELL, YES.. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE WITH HIM. HE TELLS ME EVERYTHING..

WHAT HAPPENED..? YOU'RE AMAZ-ING TODAY...
RYOU..
.....

AH, SHALL I POUR YOU ANOTHER DRINK?
REALLY?
YOU'VE GOT AN AWFULLY HIGH ALCOHOL TOLERANCE, SAYOKO-CHAN.
HEY, AUNT UKIKO
EH?
I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO TOMORROW.. I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH AND HEAD TO BED..
NO, NO.. I THINK I'M DONE
OH, I SEE! REALLY? YOU MEAN IT?!
EH..? I SEE..
I WOULDN'T MIND BEING HIS BRIDE SOMEDAY
I LIKE AKIRA-KUN A LOT..

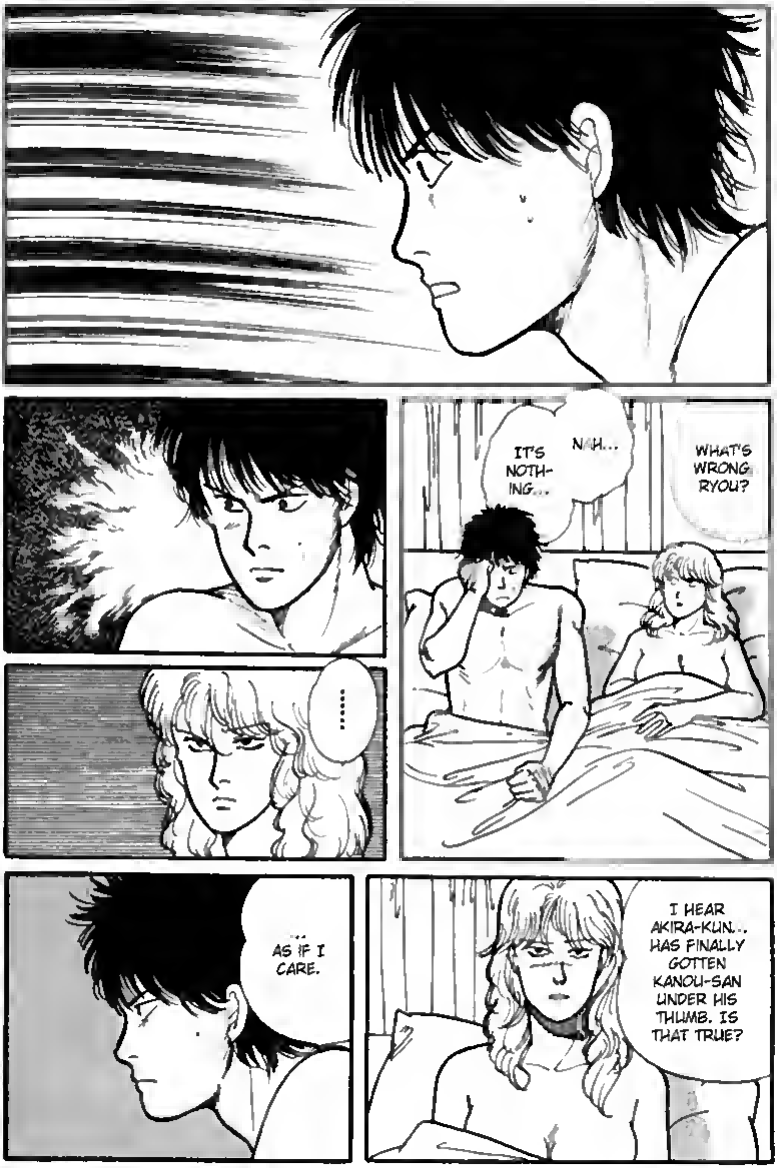
I SIMPLY MUST TELL YOUR FATHER RIGHT AWAY!
AAH, I'M SO GLAD! NOW YOUR GRANDFATHER CAN REST IN CONTENTED PEACE AS WELL...
.....
ANYWAY, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE TO GET MARRIED RIGHT AWAY. TAKE YOUR TIME AND THINK ON IT. IT'S REALLY JUST FOR APPEARANCE'S SAKE, AFTER ALL.
OH MY, THAT'S GREAT! SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME AROUND.
WELL... GOOD NIGHT... I REALLY AM HAPPY YOU'VE AGREED.
I'M SURE SHE'LL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS. THIS IS A HAPPY OCCASION, AFTER ALL...
EH?
WHAT DOES MOTHER THINK?
.....

drip...
ポチャ...
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THAT PESKY GRANDFATHER IS OUT OF THE WAY. .
NOW I CAN DO AS I PLEASE.
WHAT A HUGE WEIGHT OFF MY SHOULDERS..
SIGH... MY, MY ..
AAH, THIS FEELS GREAT
OH WELL. THINGS HAVE WORKED OUT IN THE END
STILL, IT WAS WRONG OF ME TO THINK OF SAYOKO AS AN INNOCENT LITTLE GIRL...


PERHAPS I'VE BEEN IN THE HOT WATER FOR TOO LONG
WHAT'S GOING ON? MY HEAD
!?
SOMEONE, PLEASE
IT'S NO USE. I CAN'T MOVE...
PLEASE, COME HERE ...!
dizzy クラ〃
uuu
WHAT IS IT, AUNTIE?
slide
スゥー

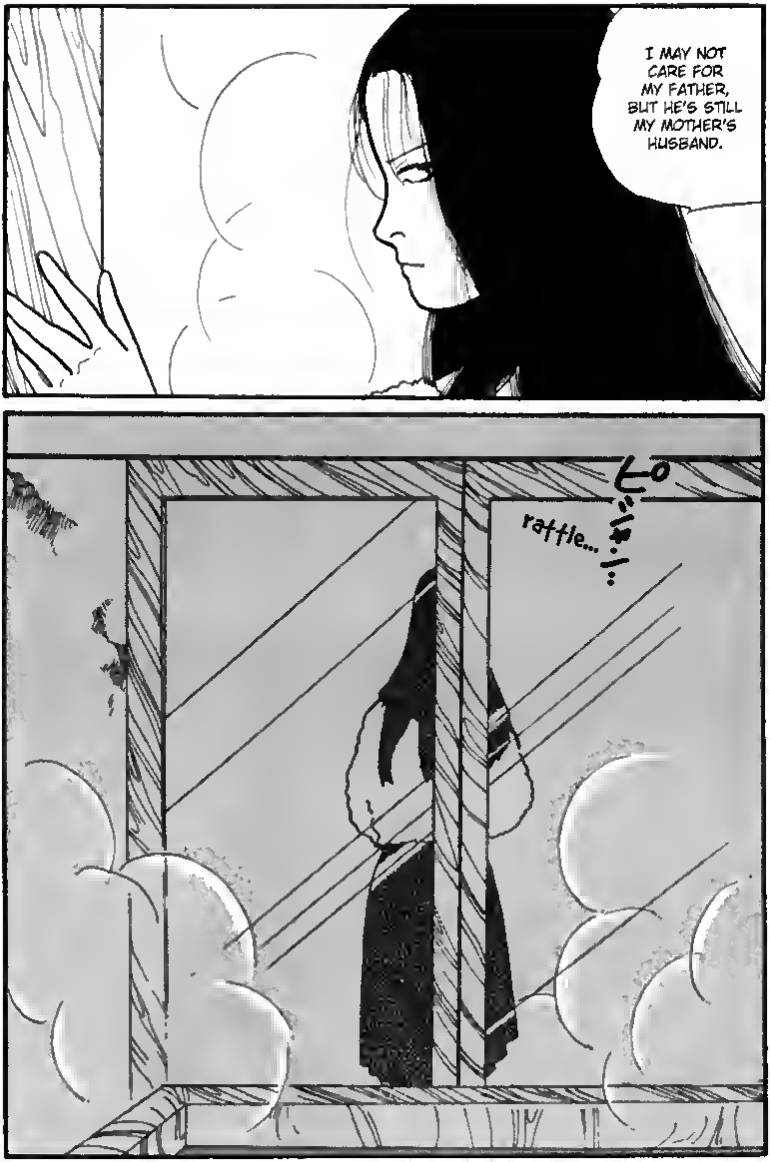
I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD..
SA.. SAYOKO-SAN, LEND ME YOUR HAND.
YOU'RE DRUNK. YOU WERE JUST SLOW IN NOTICING IT, AUNT UKIKO.
!
SPLASH

SPLASH
SPLASH!
SPLASH
SPLASH
gloop
gloop

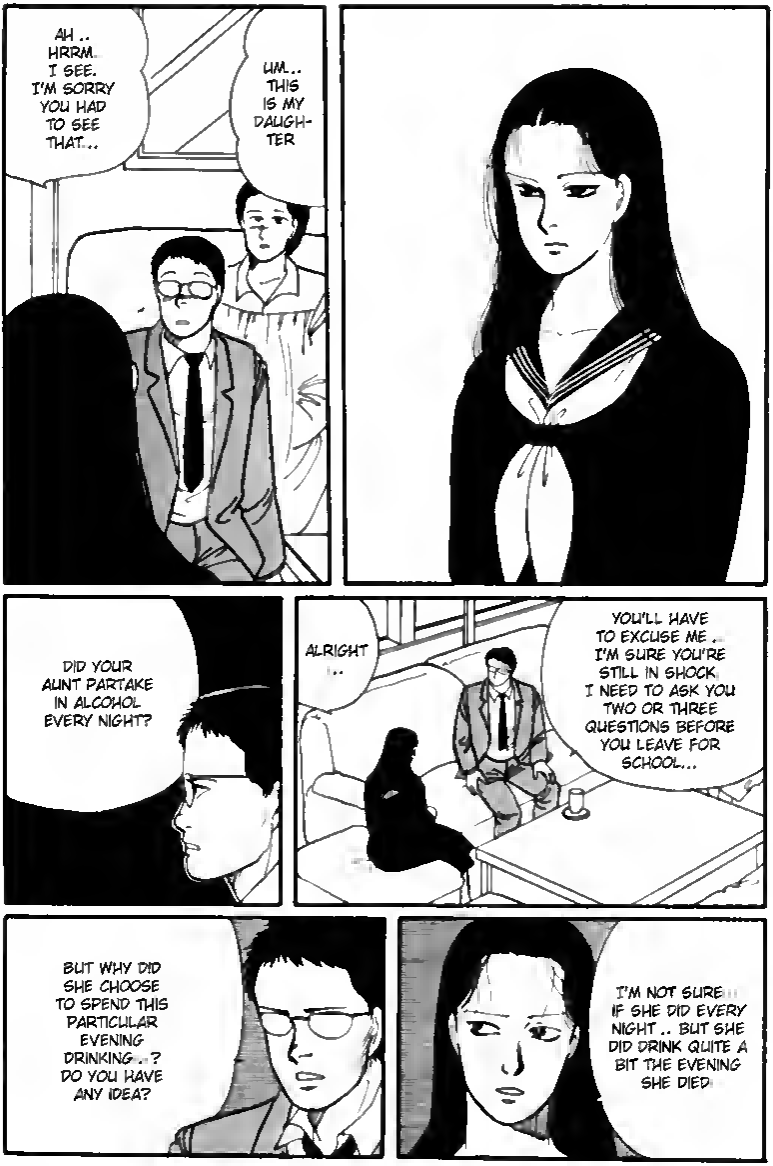

WHAT'S WRONG, RYOU?
NAH... IT'S NOTHING...
.....
... AS IF I CARE.
I HEAR AKIRA-KUN... HAS FINALLY GOTTEN KANOU-SAN UNDER HIS THUMB. IS THAT TRUE?

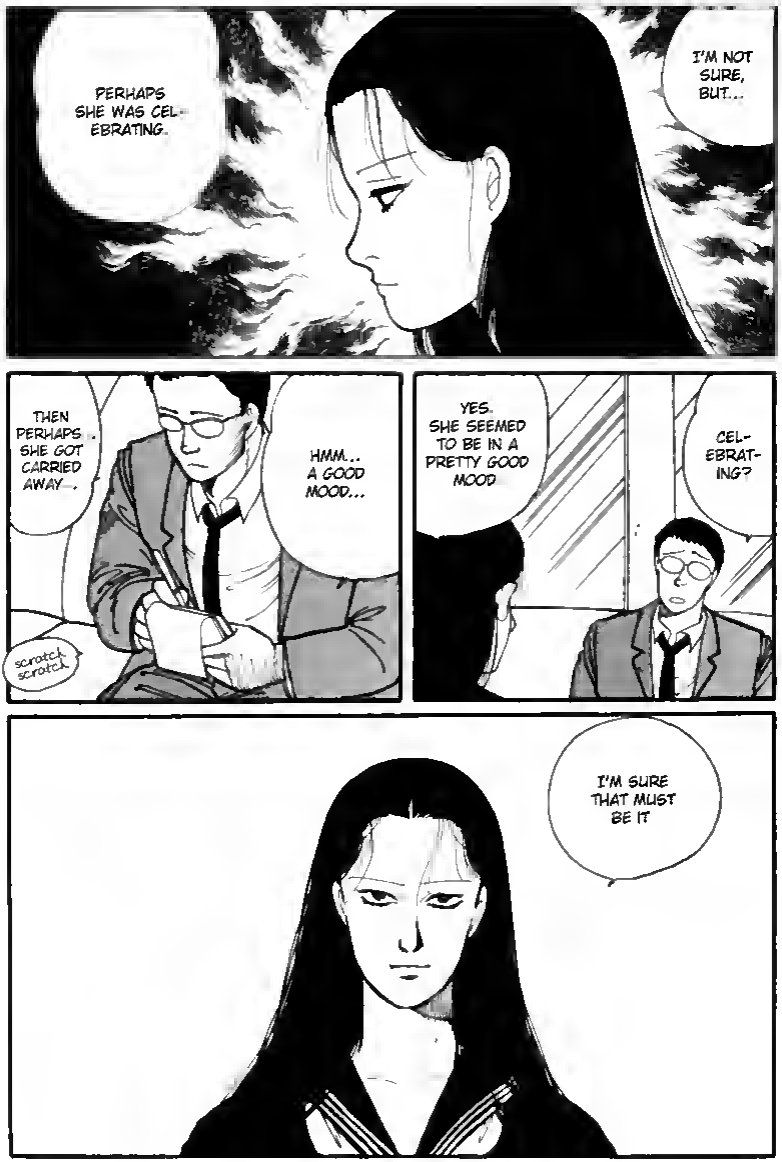
YOU REALLY LIKED HER, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT I DID TO HER WAS WRONG... SHE HELPED YOU, AFTER ALL...
TAKE IT EASY!
NOT A CHANCE!
NO NEED TO LIE ON MY ACCOUNT.

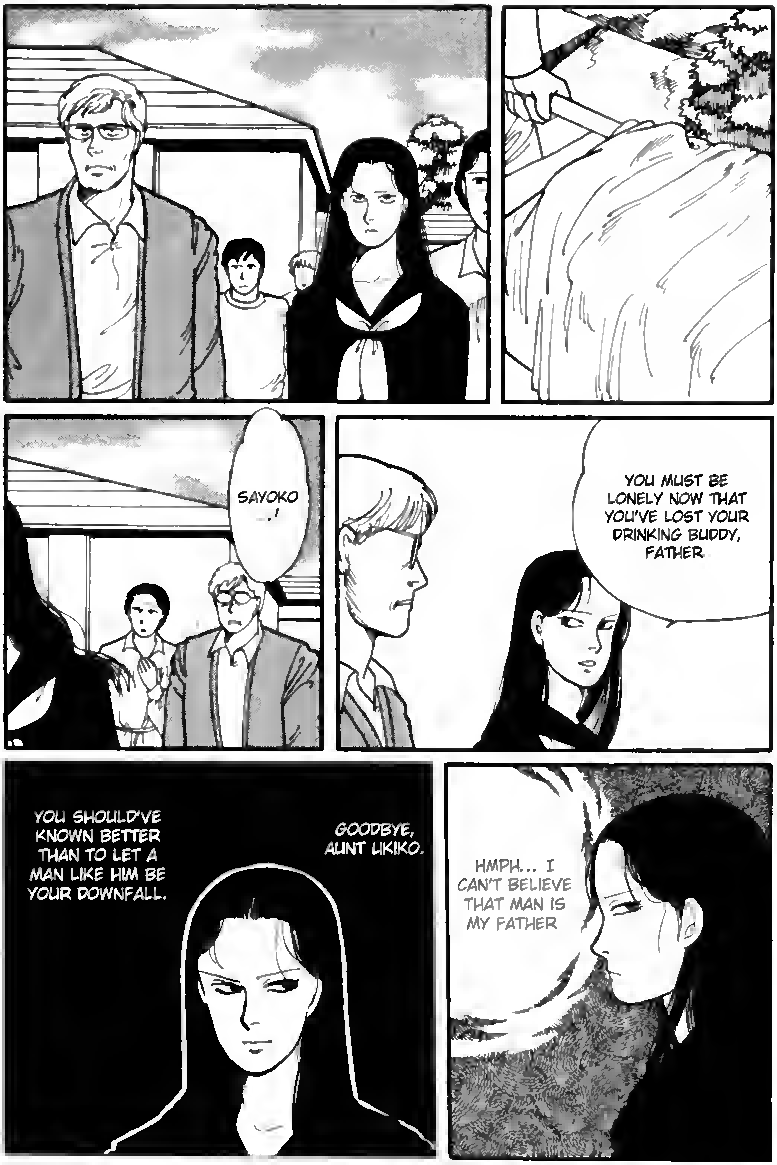
USING THE FAMILY'S MONEY FOR YOUR OWN PURPOSES IS ONE THING, BUT...
Splish...
AUNTIE ...
YOU WENT TOO FAR


I MAY NOT CARE FOR MY FATHER, BUT HE'S STILL MY MOTHER'S HUSBAND.
rattle...

I'M NOT EXACTLY IN THE BEST OF HEALTH... SO I LEFT ALL THE HOUSE-HOLD MATTERS TO UKIKO-SAN...
I SEE..
...MY FATHER PASSED AWAY RECENTLY... THINGS HAVE BEEN QUITE HECTIC..
WHO WAS THE FIRST TO DISCOVER HER BODY..?
YES..
WHICH MEANS SHE MANAGED ALL HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS BY HER-SELF, CORRECT?
THAT WOULD BE ME.

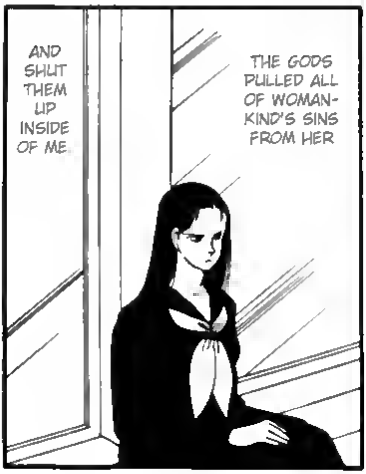

AH.. HRRM. I SEE. I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE THAT...
UM... THIS IS MY DAUGHTER
DID YOUR AUNT PARTAKE IN ALCOHOL EVERY NIGHT?
ALRIGHT..
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME.. I'M SURE YOU'RE STILL IN SHOCK. I NEED TO ASK YOU TWO OR THREE QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR SCHOOL...
BUT WHY DID SHE CHOOSE TO SPEND THIS PARTICULAR EVENING DRINKING..? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA?
I'M NOT SURE IF SHE DID EVERY NIGHT.. BUT SHE DID DRINK QUITE A BIT THE EVENING SHE DIED.


PERHAPS SHE WAS CELEBRATING.
I'M NOT SURE, BUT...
THEN PERHAPS SHE GOT CARRIED AWAY...
HMM... A GOOD MOOD...
scratch scratch
YES. SHE SEEMED TO BE IN A PRETTY GOOD MOOD
CELEBRATING?
I'M SURE THAT MUST BE IT


SAYOKO..!
YOU MUST BE LONELY NOW THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR DRINKING BUDDY, FATHER.
YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO LET A MAN LIKE HIM BE YOUR DOWNFALL.
GOODBYE, AUNT UKIKO.
HMPH... I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MAN IS MY FATHER

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SPOKE TO YOUR FATHER THAT WAY... IT'S NOT LIKE YOU
AH.. MOTHER...
SA-YOKO-SAN
YOU'RE RIGHT... I'M SORRY. THAT WAS OUT OF LINE.
IF WORSE COMES TO WORST, WE CAN SELL THE HOUSE.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO PUSH YOURSELF INTO DOING THAT FOR THE SAKE OF THE FAMILY. . PLEASE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT US
ER... SAYOKO-SAN. I HEARD FROM UKIKO-SAN THAT YOU'VE BEEN DATING TOONO-SAN'S SON IS THAT TRUE?
YES... I SUPPOSE SO..

I AT LEAST WANT YOU TO MARRY A MAN YOU LOVE..
I WAS NEVER ABLE TO DO ANY-THING FOR YOU..
I'M SORRY
AS NAIVE AS A YOUNG GIRL ..
SHE'S HAPPY..


AND SHUT THEM UP INSIDE OF ME.
THE GODS PULLED ALL OF WOMAN-KIND'S SINS FROM HER

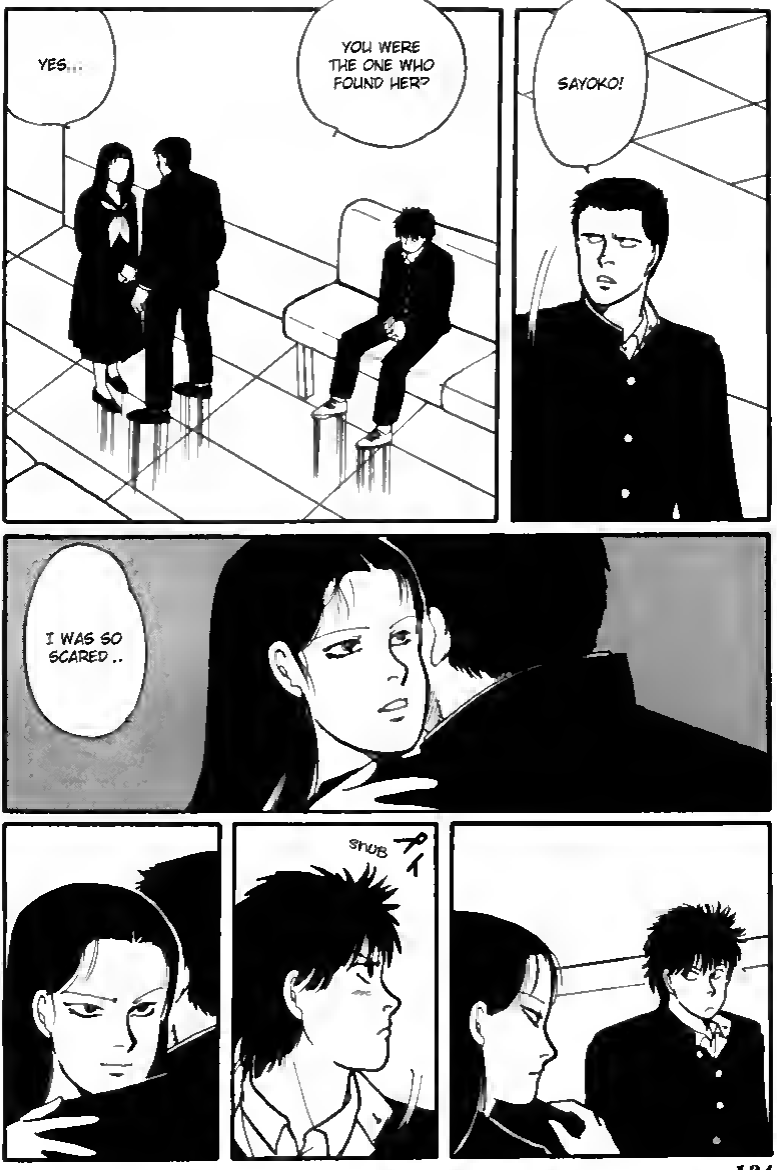
.....

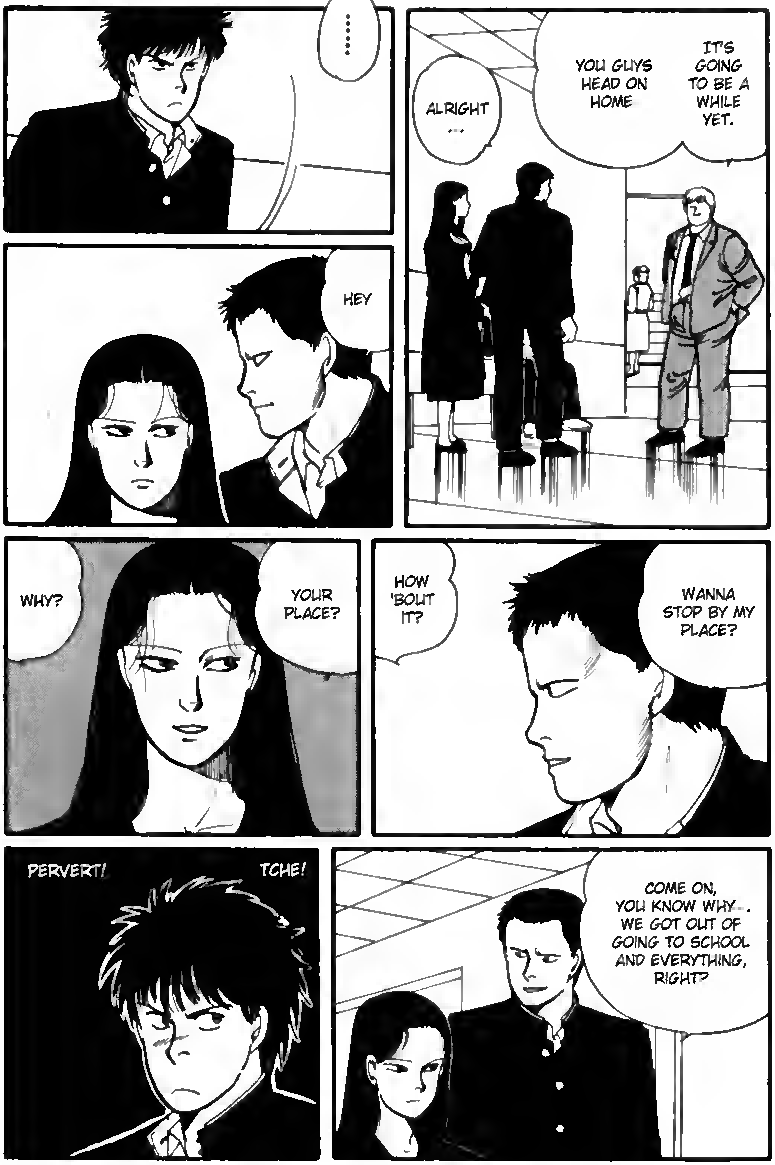
AS A WOMAN, WHO'S THE FORTUNATE ONE .?

.....
SOMETHING WRONG?
CRUNCH
EH?!
?
THAT WAS DAD ...
UNCLE? HUH. WHERE'S HE OFF TO SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
spread spread
AUNT UKIKO IS DEAD.
GOT DRUNK AND DROWNED IN THE BATHTUB.
CRUNCH

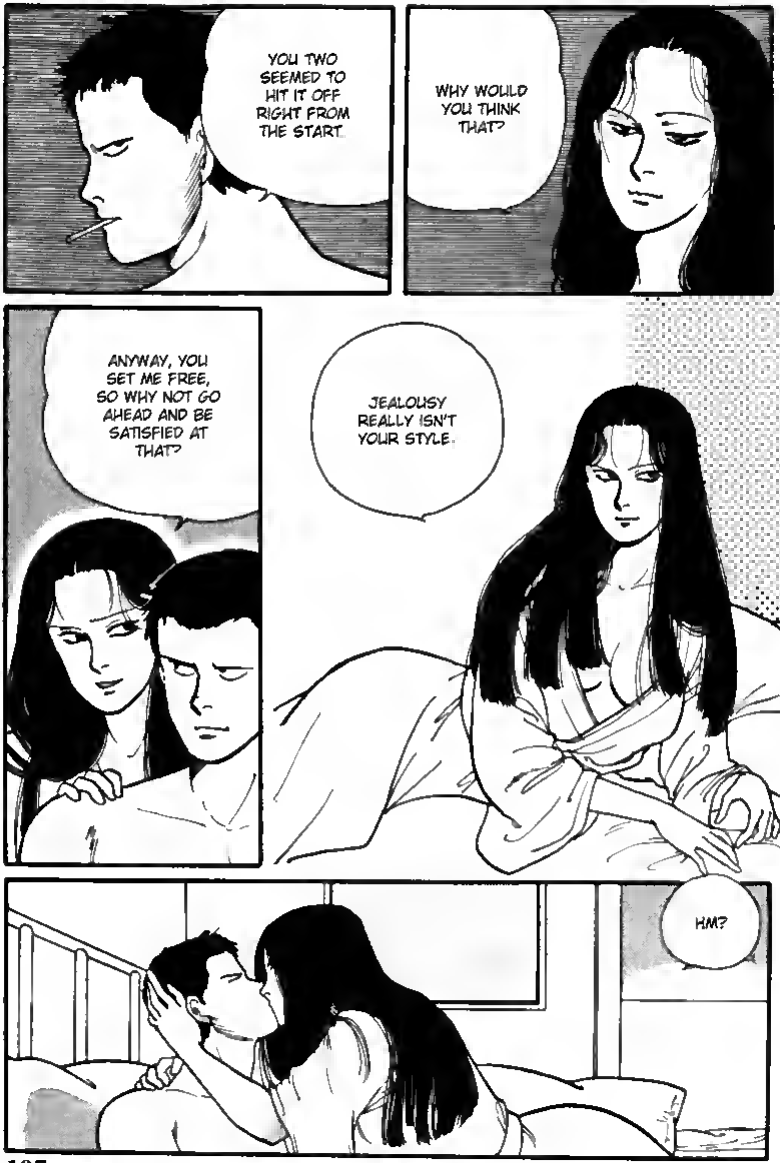
SHOCK
IT'S... NOTHING...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
...IT COULDN'T BE!
WHY DID HER FACE COME TO MIND ..?
DAD WANTS US TO GO THERE STRAIGHT AWAY ..
THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE AN AUTOPSY DONE AT THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.

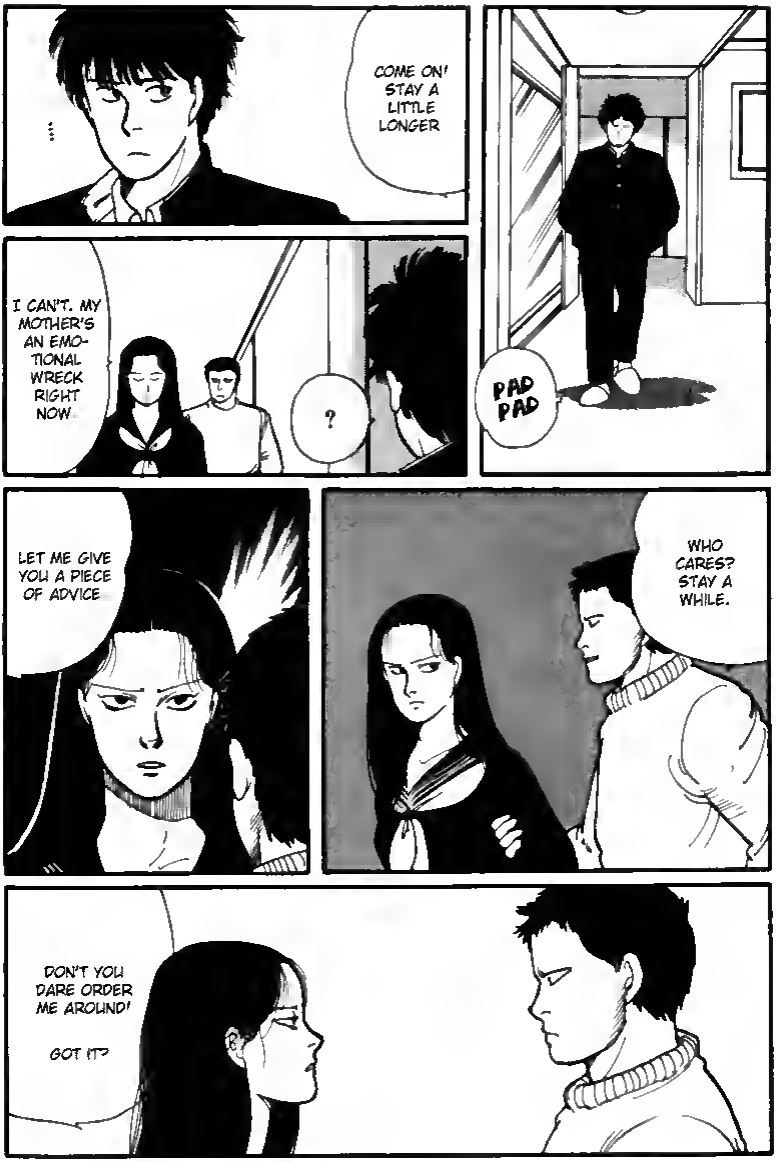
Fume イラ
Fume イラ
Fume イラ
tap tap tap コツ コツ
MURDER WOULD BE GOING TOO FAR..
EVEN FOR HER ...
tap tap tap コツ コツ


YES...
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO FOUND HER?
SAYOKO!
I WAS SO SCARED..
SNUB


……
ALRIGHT …
YOU GUYS HEAD ON HOME
IT'S GOING TO BE A WHILE YET.
HEY
WHY?
YOUR PLACE?
HOW 'BOUT IT?
WANNA STOP BY MY PLACE?
PERVERT!
TCHE!
COME ON, YOU KNOW WHY… WE GOT OUT OF GOING TO SCHOOL AND EVERYTHING, RIGHT?

YOU'RE ONE STRANGE WOMAN
I FIGURED YOU HAD THE HOTS FOR THAT BASTARD RYOU.
HOW COME?


YOU TWO SEEMED TO HIT IT OFF RIGHT FROM THE START.
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?
ANYWAY, YOU SET ME FREE, SO WHY NOT GO AHEAD AND BE SATISFIED AT THAT?
JEALOUSY REALLY ISN'T YOUR STYLE.
HM?

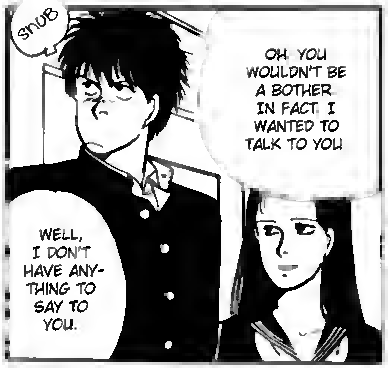

COME ON! STAY A LITTLE LONGER
...
PAD PAD
I CAN'T. MY MOTHER'S AN EMOTIONAL WRECK RIGHT NOW.
?
LET ME GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE.
WHO CARES? STAY A WHILE.
DON'T YOU DARE ORDER ME AROUND!
GOT IT?

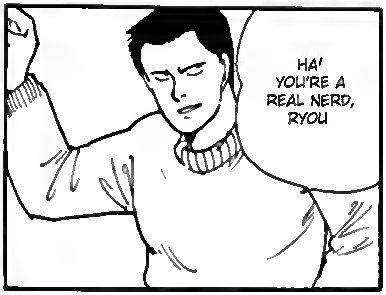
OH, DID YOU JUST GET BACK? PRETTY LATE, AREN'T YOU?

HEY, NO NEED TO GET SO PISSY...

WELL, YEAH! I'D HATE TO GET IN YOUR GUYS' WAY.

I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN'T SEE THE TRUTH.
IS THAT SO?


SNUB
OH. YOU WOULDN'T BE A BOTHER. IN FACT, I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU.
WELL, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY TO YOU.

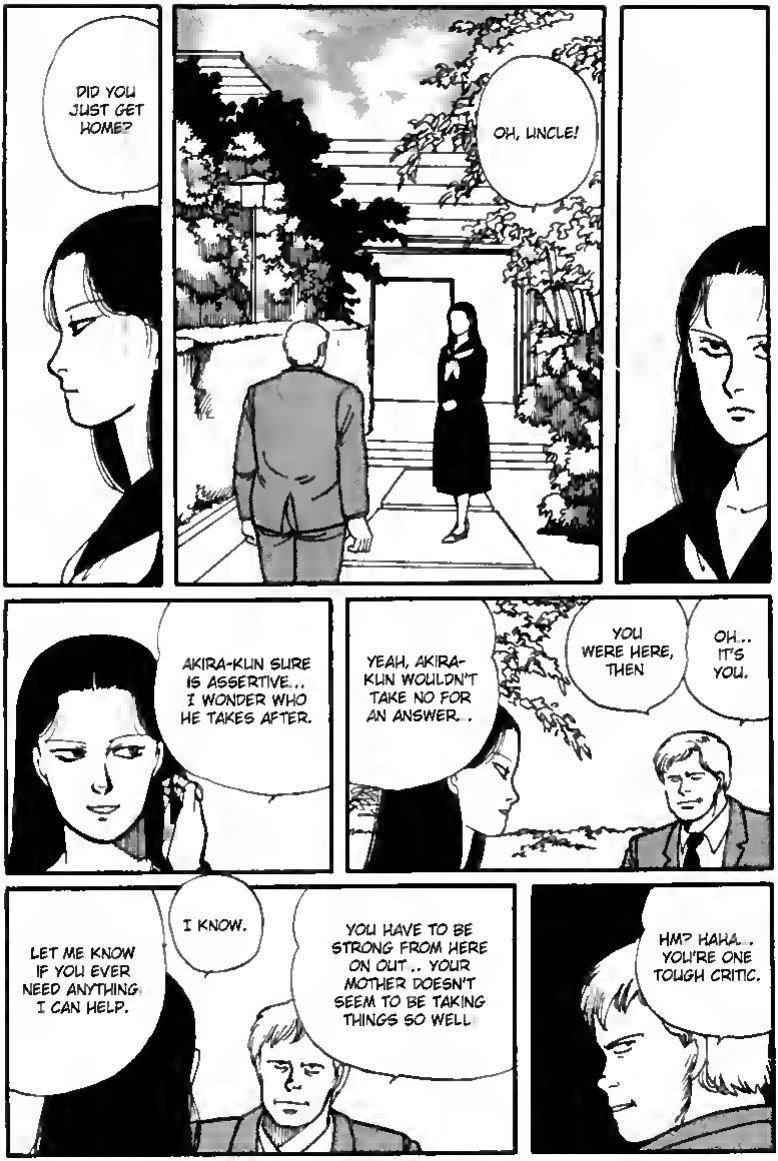

HA! YOU'RE A REAL NERD, RYOU

!?
...
SEE YOU LATER
!
.....
OH! LEAVING SO SOON?
YES. THANKS FOR HAVING ME

AH HAHAHA! HAHA' AAAAH HAHA...!
HEH
WHAT'S SO FUNNY..?
BANG!
HEH HEH .. THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, AKIRA
WHAT?
..HEY, RYOU.

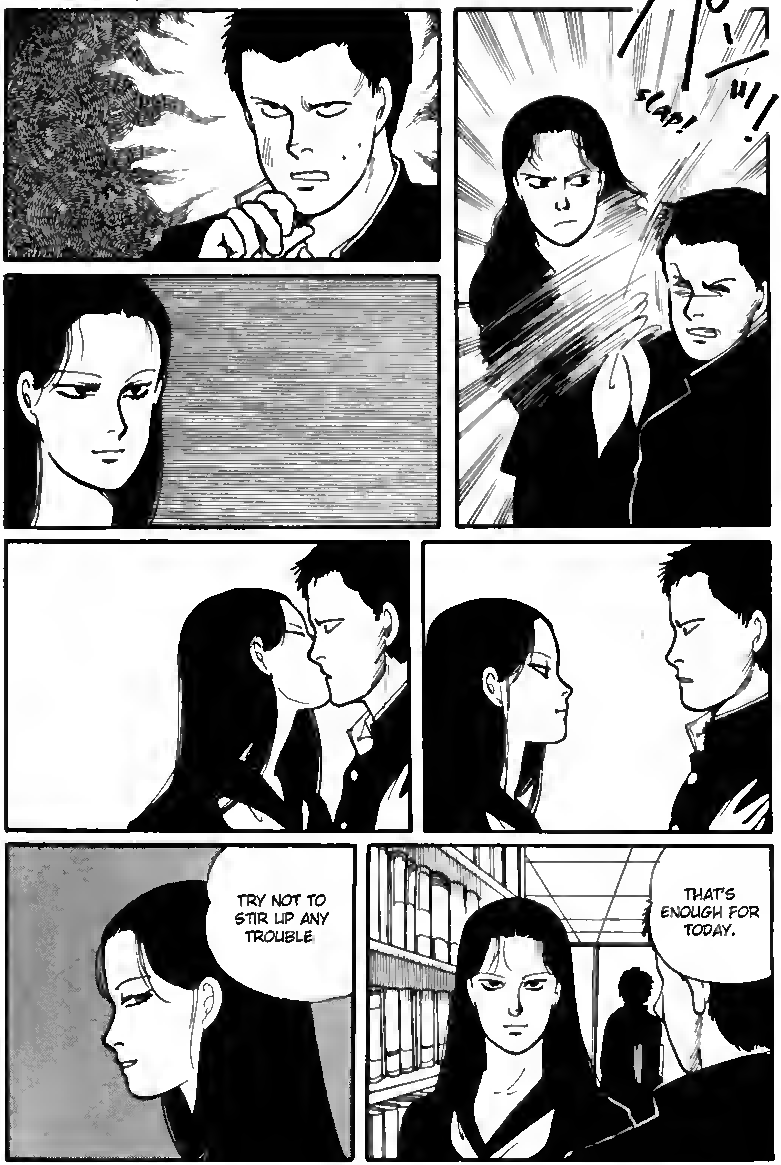
ALL I DID WAS SAY THIS ISN'T REALLY LIKE YOU!
...I'LL PASS
UNLESS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ANOTHER THRASHING!
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, ALRIGHT?!
.....!?
YOU STAY AWAY FROM HER! GOT IT?!
...NOTHING I HEAR YOU
.....
WHAT?!

TCHE!
HE'S NOT HIMSELF.
...HOW STRANGE.
IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH HE'S TRULY JEALOUS OF ME ..
WHY DID HE MAKE A SCENE LIKE THAT?
HEHE..


DID YOU JUST GET HOME?
OH, UNCLE!
AKIRA-KUN SURE IS ASSERTIVE... I WONDER WHO HE TAKES AFTER.
YEAH, AKIRA-KUN WOULDN'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER..
YOU WERE HERE, THEN
OH... IT'S YOU.
I KNOW.
LET ME KNOW IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING I CAN HELP.
YOU HAVE TO BE STRONG FROM HERE ON OUT.. YOUR MOTHER DOESN'T SEEM TO BE TAKING THINGS SO WELL
HM? HAHA.. YOU'RE ONE TOUGH CRITIC.

AL-
RIGHT
...
SEE YOU
LATER,
UNCLE.
図書室

GET OUT OF MY WAY, PLEASE.
I'M SURE IT'S JUST BEEN BAD TIMING
LIAR!
DON'T SHOUT! WHERE DO YOU THINK WE ARE?!
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CALL, ALL I HEAR IS, "I'M NOT IN RIGHT NOW".
WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER THE PHONE?
pull
I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR NON-SENSE.


SLAP!
TRY NOT TO STIR UP ANY TROUBLE.
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.

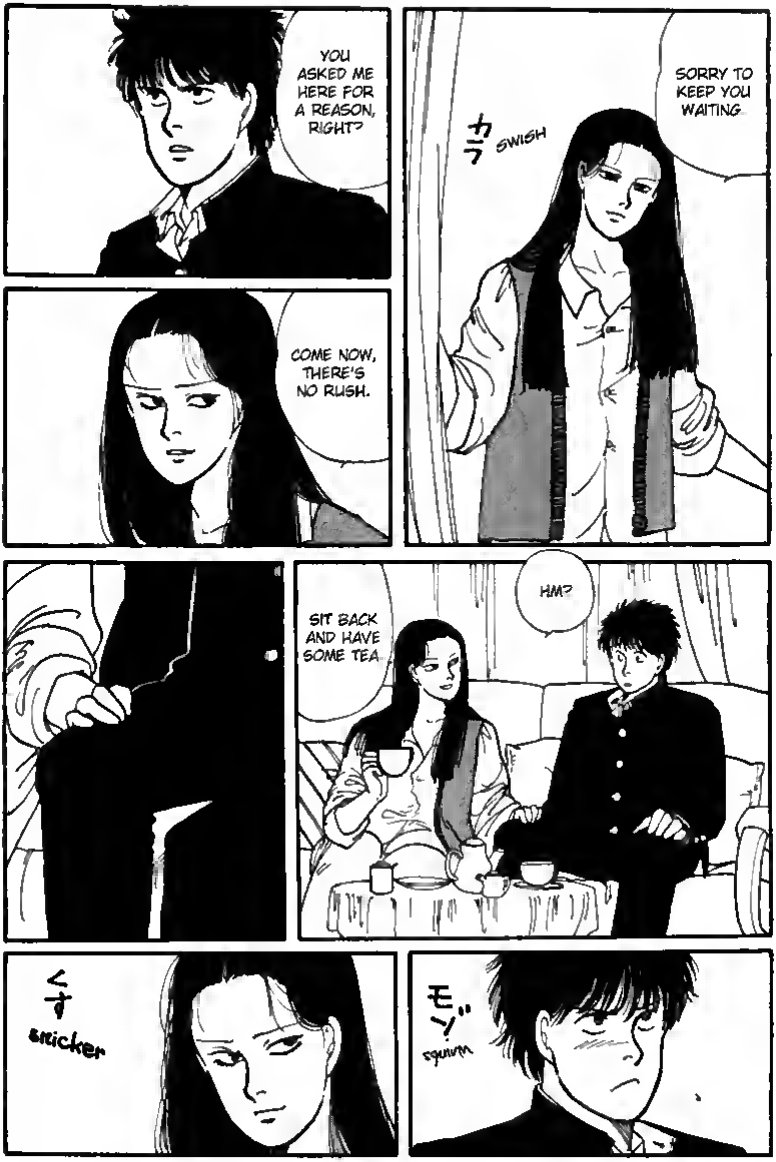
On Book Cooking for Men
Cooking Series

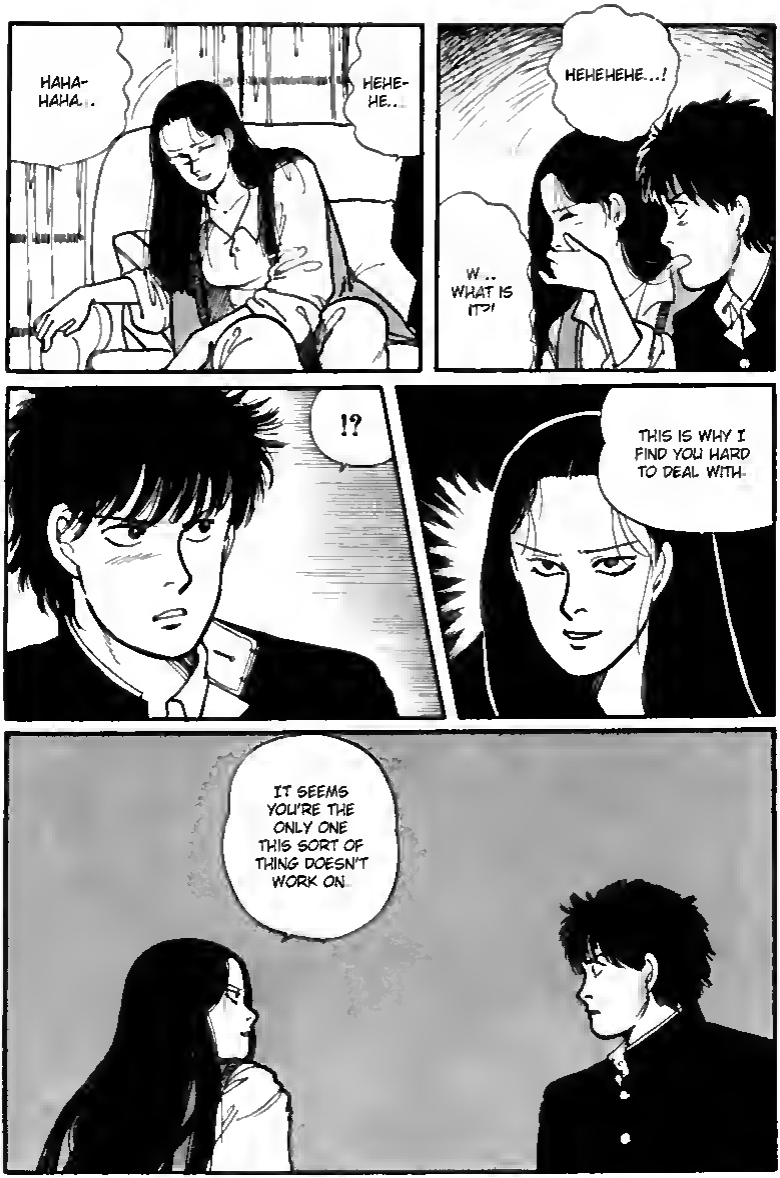
WHY, YOU..! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! I JUST CAME TO BORROW SOME BOOKS!
HE'S A LITTLE ON EDGE, THAT'S ALL...
AH... PLEASE EXCUSE HIM, MISS.
WHERE DO YOU THINK THIS IS?!
YOU THERE! WHAT ARE YOU TWO MAKING A RUCKUS FOR?!
SHUT UP! STAY OUT OF THIS, YOU OLD HAG!
HEY! I SAID WAIT!
creak
AKIRA, WAIT!

DON'T YOU DARE LAY ONE FINGER ON HER. UNDERSTAND?!
LISTEN UP. I'M GOING TO SAY THIS ONE MORE TIME
LET GO OF ME!
THIS ISN'T GOOD... HE'S BEHAVING LESS AND LESS LIKE NORMAL.
.....
HE SURE IS PERSISTENT ...
AH...
LOOKS LIKE HE FINALLY LEFT.

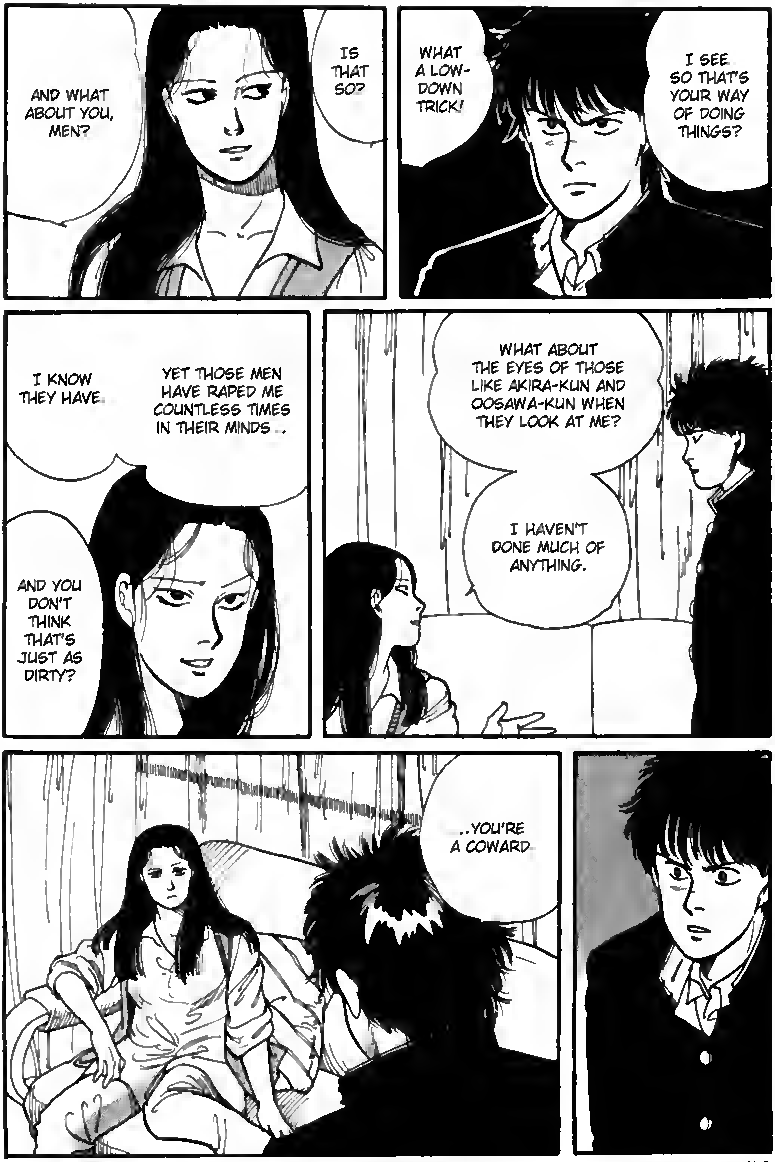
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...WHAT DID YOU DO TO AKIRA?
THAT'S FUNNY
AND YOU SAY IT'S MY FAULT?
LIKE A CHILD WHO'S HAD HIS CANDY TAKEN AWAY!
HE'S NOT HIMSELF ANYMORE... IT'S LIKE HE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON
OR DO YOU HAVE SOME REASON TO THINK THAT?

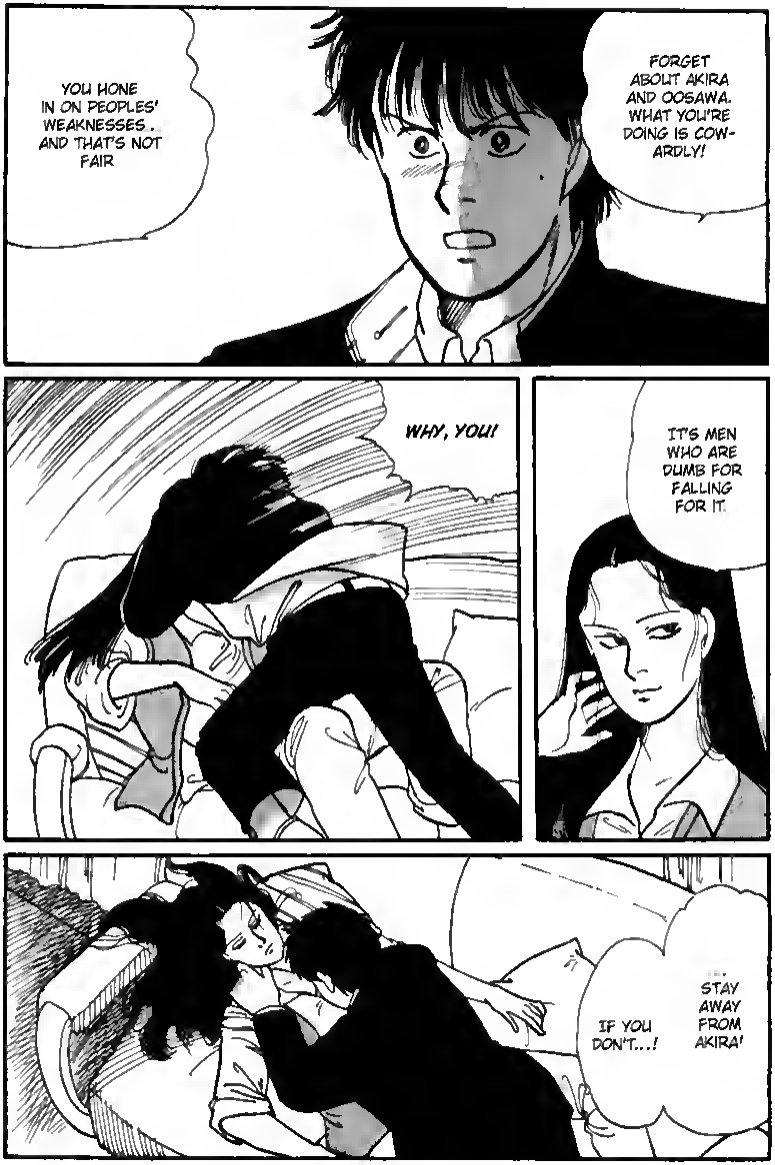
EH?
FINE... THEN COME OVER TO MY HOUSE TODAY.
.....
WAIT BY THE GATE AFTER SCHOOL.


YOU ASKED ME HERE FOR A REASON, RIGHT?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
カラ SWISH
COME NOW, THERE'S NO RUSH.
SIT BACK AND HAVE SOME TEA
HM?
くすっ snicker
モゾ squirm


HAHA-HAHA..
HEHE-HE..
HEHEHEHE...!
W.. WHAT IS IT?!
!?
THIS IS WHY I FIND YOU HARD TO DEAL WITH.
IT SEEMS YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THIS SORT OF THING DOESN'T WORK ON.

S-STOP FUCKING WITH ME!
YOU'RE AS PURE AS A VIRGIN GIRL
HISAKO-SAN ONCE SAID... THAT YOU AND AKIRA ARE LIKE TWO SIDES OF A SCALE.
NOW NOW, CALM DOWN.
IF ALL YOU WANT IS TO MOCK ME, I'M OUT OF HERE!
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU CALLED ME OUT HERE FOR THIS?!
THEY'RE POLAR OPPOSITES. YET WITHOUT ONE, THE ENTIRE BALANCE IS IN-STANTANEOUSLY BROKEN...
LIGHT AND DARK WATER AND FIRE MEN AND WOMEN.
TWO THINGS ON OPPOSITE SIDES...
SHE REALLY HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD...

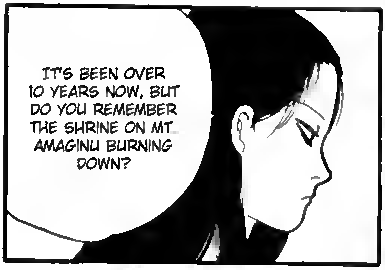

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, MEN?
IS THAT SO?
WHAT A LOW-DOWN TRICK!
I SEE SO THAT'S YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS?
I KNOW THEY HAVE.
YET THOSE MEN HAVE RAPED ME COUNTLESS TIMES IN THEIR MINDS..
AND YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S JUST AS DIRTY?
WHAT ABOUT THE EYES OF THOSE LIKE AKIRA-KUN AND OOSAWA-KUN WHEN THEY LOOK AT ME?
I HAVEN'T DONE MUCH OF ANYTHING.
..YOU'RE A COWARD.

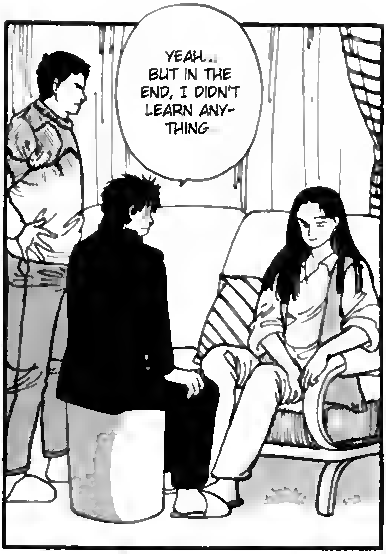

YOU HONE IN ON PEOPLES' WEAKNESSES. AND THAT'S NOT FAIR
FORGET ABOUT AKIRA AND OOSAWA. WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS COWARDLY!
WHY, YOU!
IT'S MEN WHO ARE DUMB FOR FALLING FOR IT.
IF YOU DON'T...!
STAY AWAY FROM AKIRA!

WHAT?!
YOU MEAN YOU'LL RAPE ME? DO YOU EVEN HAVE THE GUTS?
IF I DON'T, THEN WHAT?
GRAAW!!
@VEH!
OUCH!
yank
?
HEY.
!
OOOW...
AH..

MUST YOU ALWAYS BE AROUND TO SAVE YOUR PRINCESS'S SORRY ASS?
TCHE! CAN'T BE EASY BEING YOU
WERE YOU SO ANGRY THAT YOU DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE ME COME IN?
IT'S JUST AS I TOLD YOU YOU'RE STILL A CHILD.
.....
YOU SHOULD LEARN TO WATCH YOUR MOUTH BETTER, LITTLE BOY.
GRIND
ギリ
sigh
TCHE! DAMN YOU'RE STRONG!
HEHEHE .. THAT'S ENOUGH LET HIM GO, YUKIMASA.

...HAVE YOU COOLED DOWN A LITTLE, RYOU-KUN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SNUB
OH, THERE'S NO NEED TO HIDE IT!
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ME, HAVEN'T YOU?
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN ASKING AROUND.
WHY WAS I ADOPTED INTO YUKIMASA'S FAMILY HOME ..?
.....
YOUR METHODS MADE IT IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS


IT'S BEEN OVER 10 YEARS NOW, BUT DO YOU REMEMBER THE SHRINE ON MT. AMAGINU BURNING DOWN?

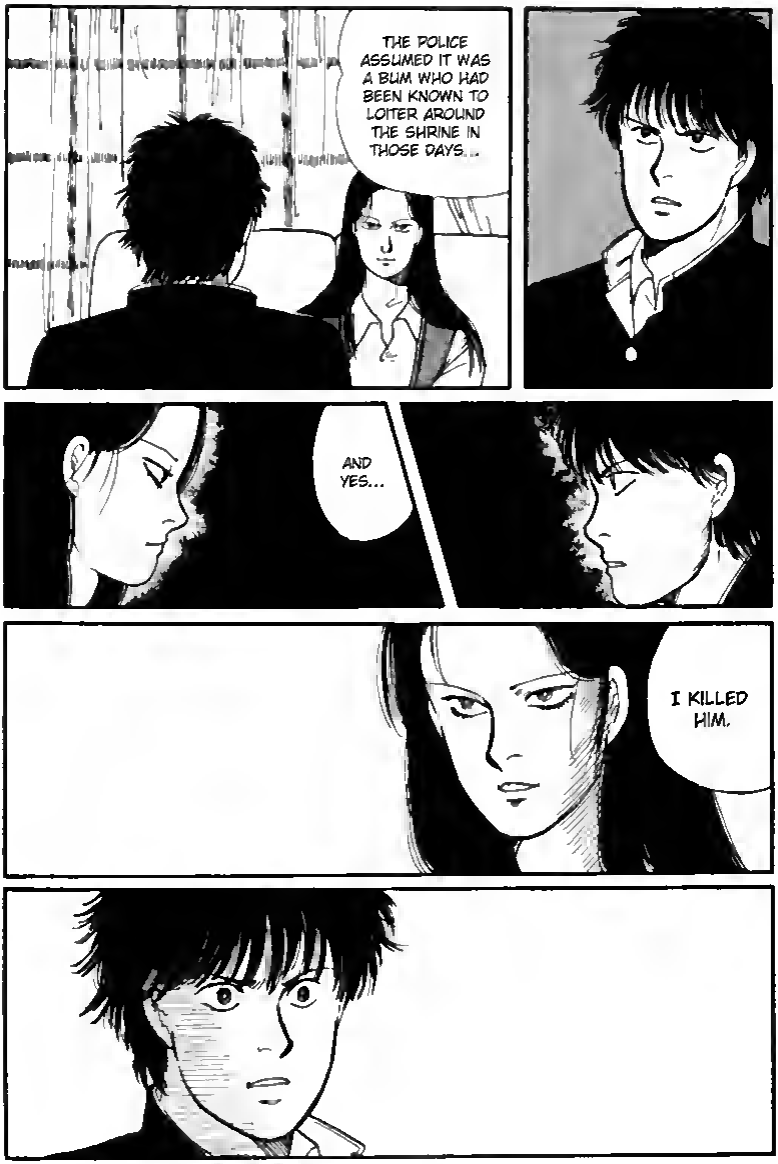

YEAH... BUT IN THE END, I DIDN'T LEARN ANY-THING...

A SHRINE...? NOT REALLY...

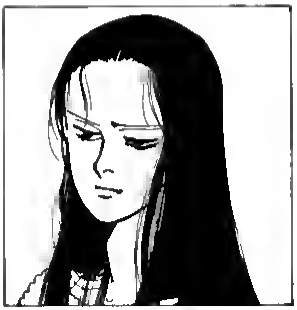
THERE WAS ONE UNIDENTIFIED BODY FOUND CHARRED BY THE FLAMES

HMPH
"RE YOU GOING TO SAY YOU LIT THE FIRE YOURSELF?

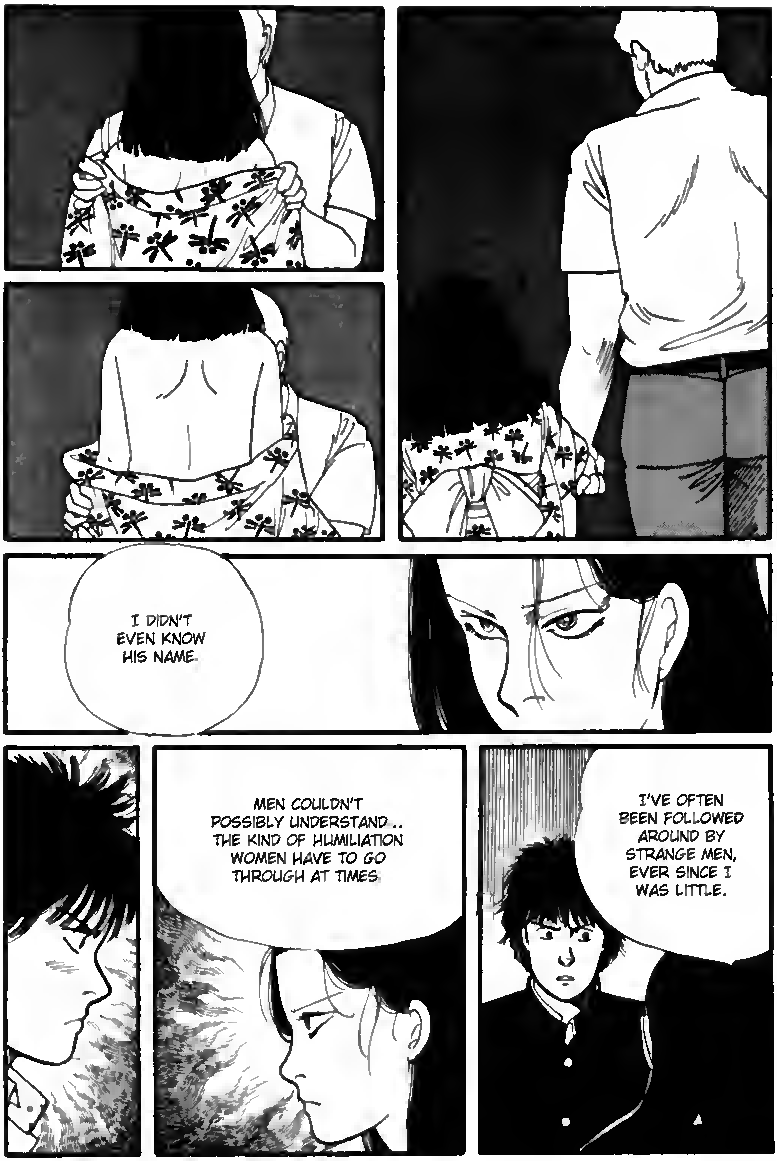
THAT'S FAIR... YOU AND I WERE ONLY AROUND 6 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME... BUT I REMEMBER IT... VERY WELL...


THE POLICE ASSUMED IT WAS A BUM WHO HAD BEEN KNOWN TO LOITER AROUND THE SHRINE IN THOSE DAYS...
AND YES...
I KILLED HIM.

K-KILLED HIM...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I KILLED A MAN.
THERE IS NO HIDDEN MEANING..
I WAS ONLY 6 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME.
I WAS PLAYING BY MYSELF AT THE MT. AMAGINU SHRINE.


I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HIS NAME.
MEN COULDN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND .. THE KIND OF HUMILIATION WOMEN HAVE TO GO THROUGH AT TIMES.
I'VE OFTEN BEEN FOLLOWED AROUND BY STRANGE MEN, EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE.

THE SECOND TIME AROUND, IT WAS I WHO APPROACHED HIM.

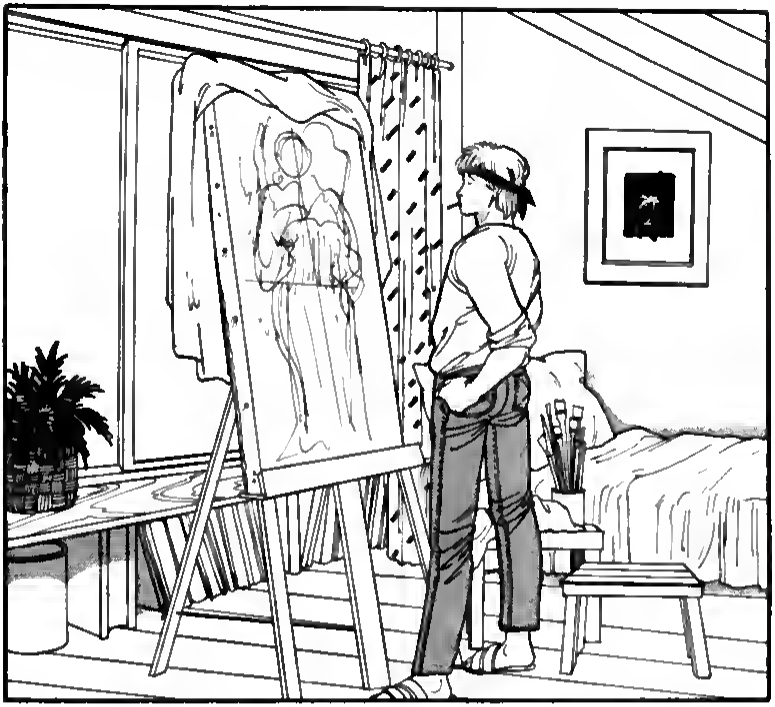
Haah, haah, haah.
CRUNCH!
gulp
.....
WELL, ? ARE YOU SURPRISED?

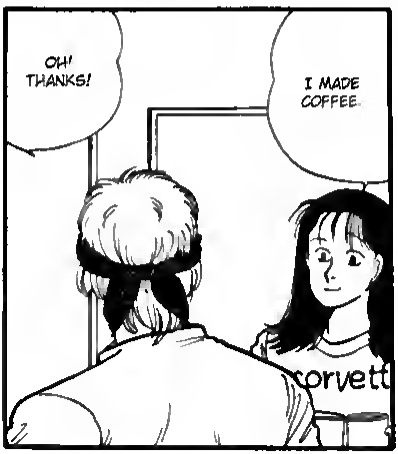
MY GRANDPA AND GRANDMA TOOK CARE OF THE CLEANUP...
THEY SET FIRE TO THE SHRINE,
AND MADE IT LOOK LIKE A HOMELESS MAN FELL ASLEEP THERE AND NEGLECTED TO PUT OUT A FIRE.

WELL? DO YOU BELIEVE ME?
SHE'S A MONSTER..
...YOU...
I'M..?
WHAT?
SHE'S NO AVERAGE WOMAN...
SHE'S THE DEVIL.

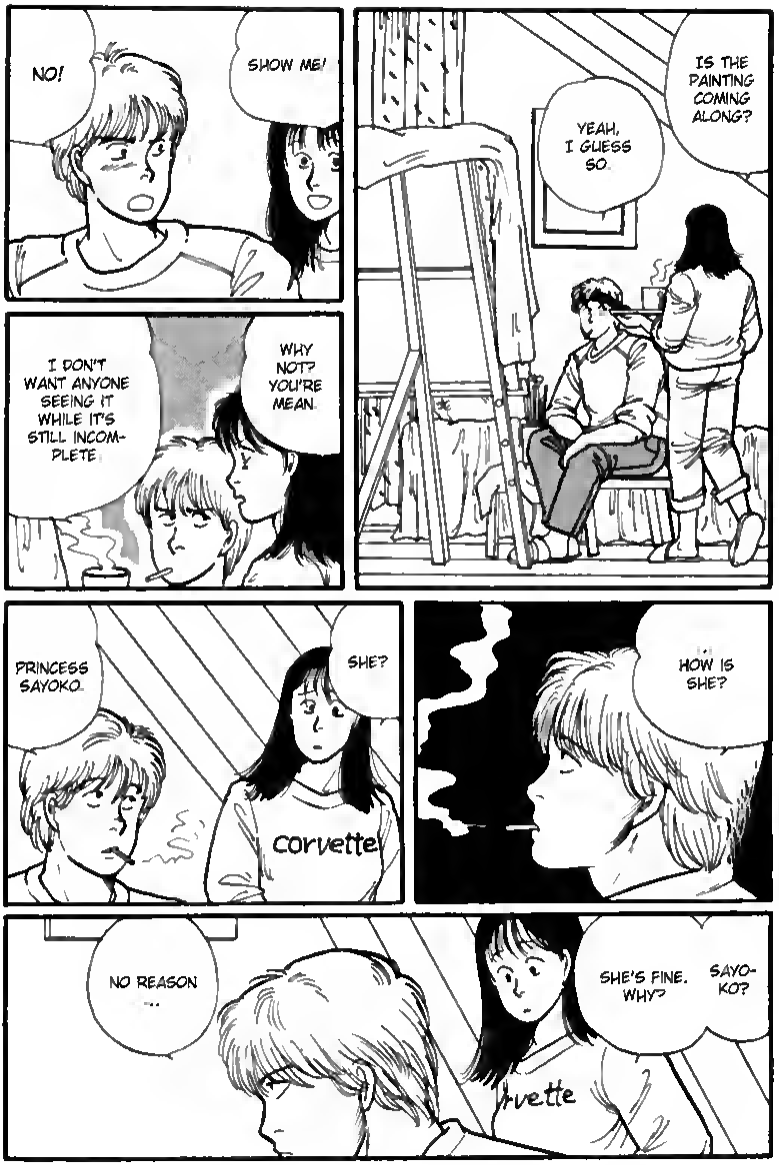
I SEE... SEE HIM TO THE DOOR THEN, YUKIMASA.
OH? DIDN'T YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT AKIRA-KUN SOME MORE?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I'M LEAV-ING...
I WOULD NEVER BELIEVE SUCH A STORY, BUT IN HER CASE...
NORMALLY...
THINKING ABOUT IT STILL GIVES ME THE CHILLS..
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO FRIGHTENED BY A WOMAN IN MY LIFE.

YOU'RE FACING AN UNHOLY TEMPTRESS...
AKIRA!
IF THINGS KEEP GOING AS THEY ARE, MY FAMILY WILL BE TORN APART.
WHAT CAN I DO?!
flick




I MADE COFFEE.
OH! THANKS!

HEY, BRO!

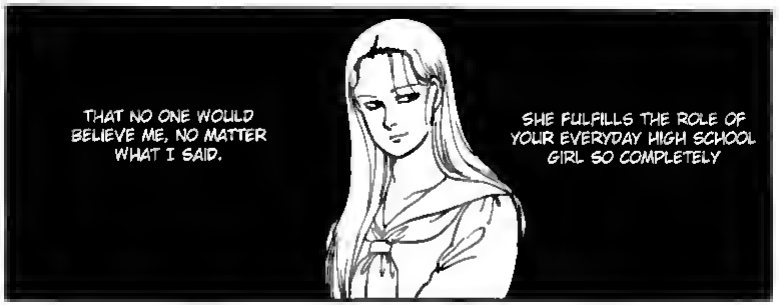

NO!
SHOW ME!
I DON'T WANT ANYONE SEEING IT WHILE IT'S STILL INCOMPLETE.
WHY NOT? YOU'RE MEAN.
IS THE PAINTING COMING ALONG?
YEAH, I GUESS SO.
PRINCESS SAYOKO.
SHE?
corvette
HOW IS SHE?
NO REASON ...
SHE'S FINE. WHY?
SAYOKO?
rvette

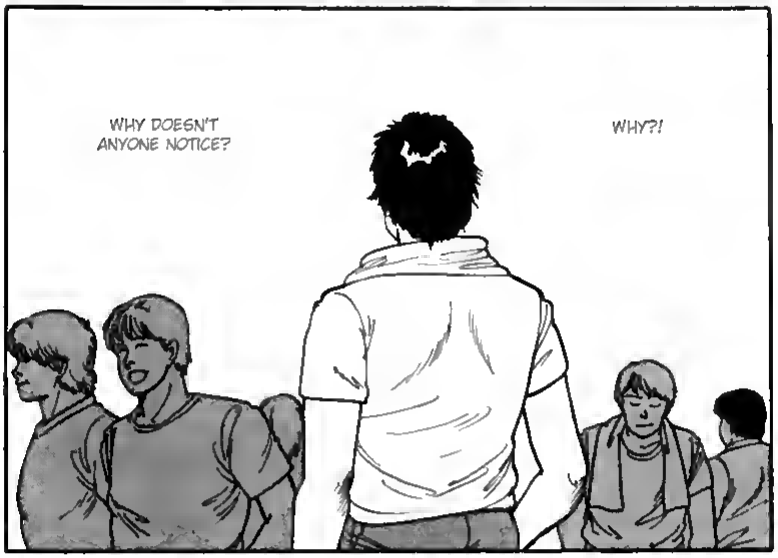
WHAT IS IT?
HM? AH, THAT YOU, RYOU?
UNCLE!
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...
CRAP HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO EXPLAIN THIS ..?
YOU KNOW A LOT.
YEAH, I HEARD IT STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE.
SO, AKIRA... IS DATING THE KANOU FAMILY'S DAUGHTER, RIGHT?
HM?
AND SHE WAS ONCE ADOPTED INTO ANOTHER FAMILY WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER, RIGHT?
BUT .. DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE?
THAT FAMILY FOLLOWS THE MATERNAL LINE, RIGHT? I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'D LET GO OF A DAUGHTER SO EASILY
OH, RIGHT YOU'RE IN THE SAME CLASS

.....
I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED.. SOMETHING THEY DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW
W-WHAT?
WELL, CAN'T SAY I BLAME YOU. SHE'S A LOOKER
SO YOU LIKE THAT GIRL, TOO?
FLOMP
T-THAT'S NOT IT!
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU.. YOU JEALOUS?
HAHA..! THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL..
TCHE! HE DOESN'T GET THAT THE HUNTER IS ABOUT TO BECOME THE HUNTED
COME ON, YOU'RE POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS.. LET AKIRA HAVE THIS ONE.
I SAID THAT'S NOT IT! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, UNCLE!

fsssh
キーン
DING DONG
キーン
DING DONG
HEY, HURRY UP!
AH, SHOOT HAND ME YOUR TOWEL!
AAAH, PE WAS ROUGH TODAY.
HEH HEH! HAS ALL THAT SMOKING SAPPED YOUR STAMINA?
YOU'RE AN IDIOT. I'M NOT WEAK ENOUGH TO LET A FEW CIGARETTES BRING ME DOW—

..YOUR BROTHER AND KANOU, HUH..
TCHE!
AAAH, A GOOD NUMBER OF GUYS ARE BROKEN UP OVER IT.
.....
LIKE SHE WAS STOLEN FROM RIGHT UNDER THEIR NOSES
SHE'S PERFECT AT KEEPING UP APPEARANCES AND WON'T SHOW HER TRUE SELF TO ANYONE BUT ME
NO ONE SEES WHAT I SEE ..

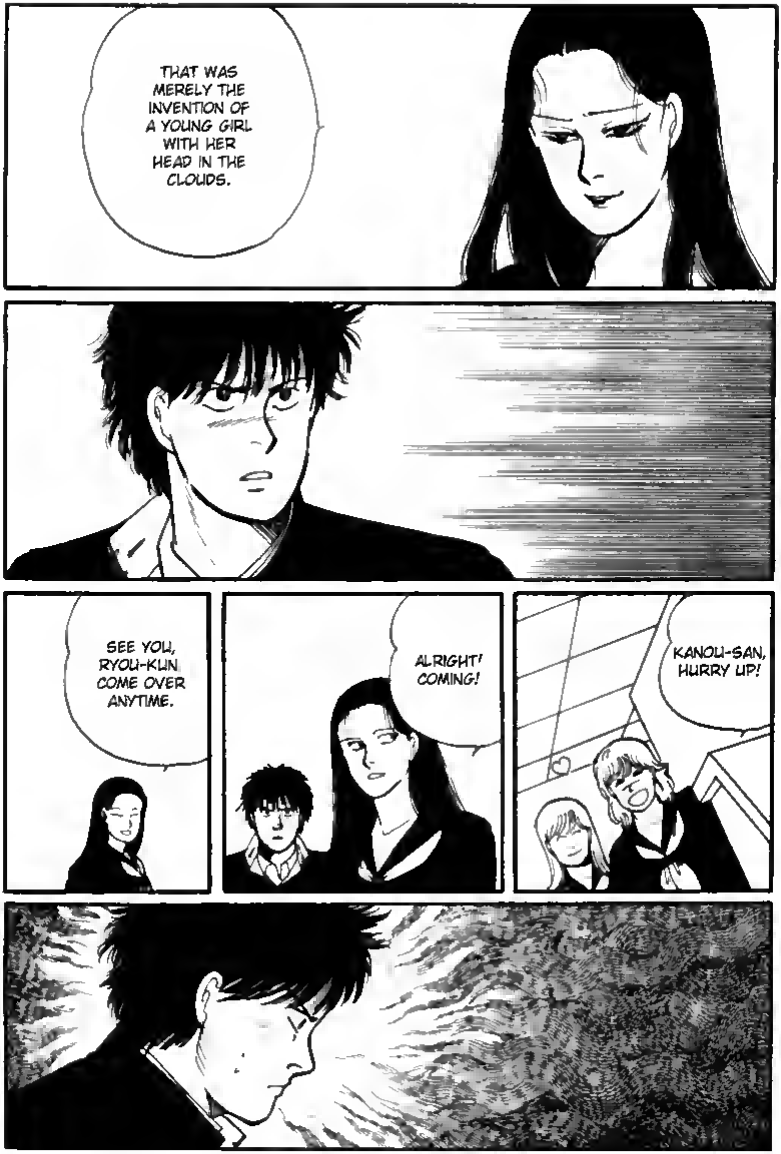

THAT NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE ME, NO MATTER WHAT I SAID.
SHE FULFILLS THE ROLE OF YOUR EVERYDAY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL SO COMPLETELY


WHY DOESN'T ANYONE NOTICE?
WHY?!

AND NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM KNOWS IT
THERE'S A WOLF HIDING AMONG THE SHEEP.

SHOCK
ギク

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE MESSED UP STORY I TOLD YOU EARLIER
I MADE THE ENTIRE THING UP... I ONLY SAID IT TO SCARE YOU.
WHAT...?!
DID YOU TAKE MY STORY SERIOUSLY?

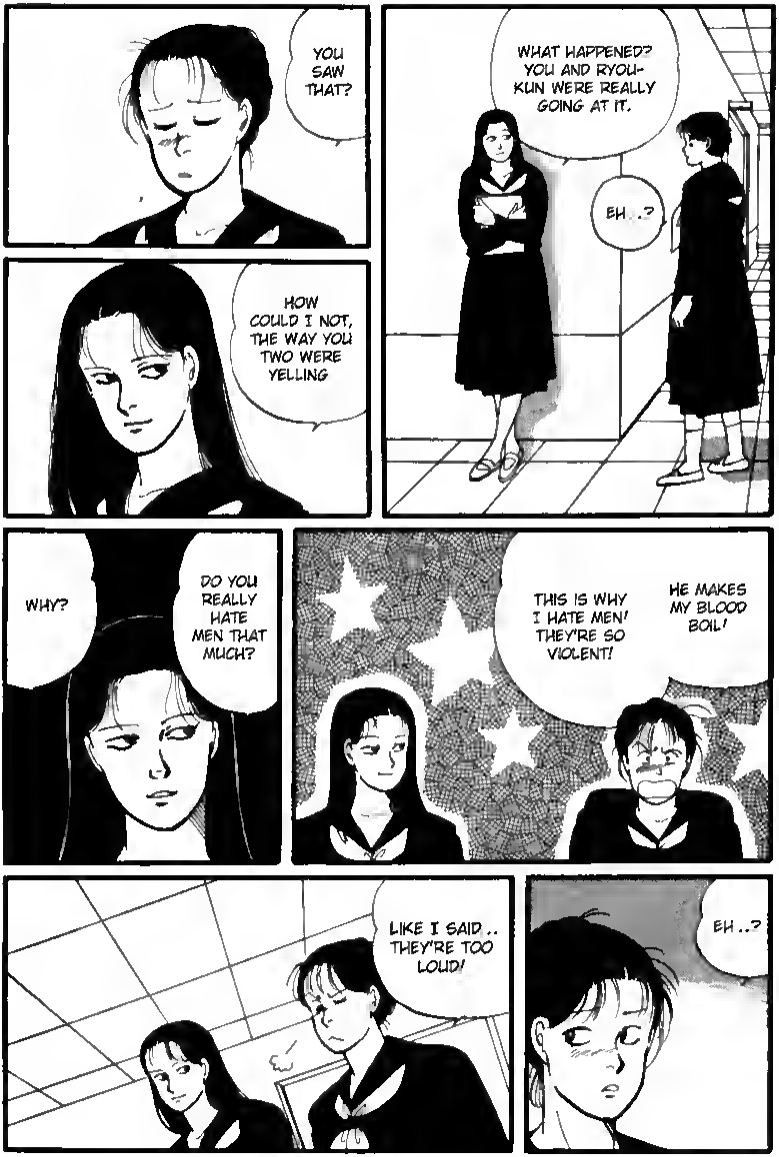

THAT WAS MERELY THE INVENTION OF A YOUNG GIRL WITH HER HEAD IN THE CLOUDS.
SEE YOU, RYOU-KUN. COME OVER ANYTIME.
ALRIGHT! COMING!
KANOU-SAN, HURRY UP!

ON A MAN WHO DID SOMETHING TERRIBLE TO HER AS A CHILD.
SHE SUCCESSFULLY GOT HER REVENGE
THERE'S NO DOUBT SHE DID IT...
Shock
COULD IT BE ...?!
SHE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT ALL...
IT'S POSSIBLE..
TOO MANY SINISTER EVENTS HAVE SURROUNDED HER.

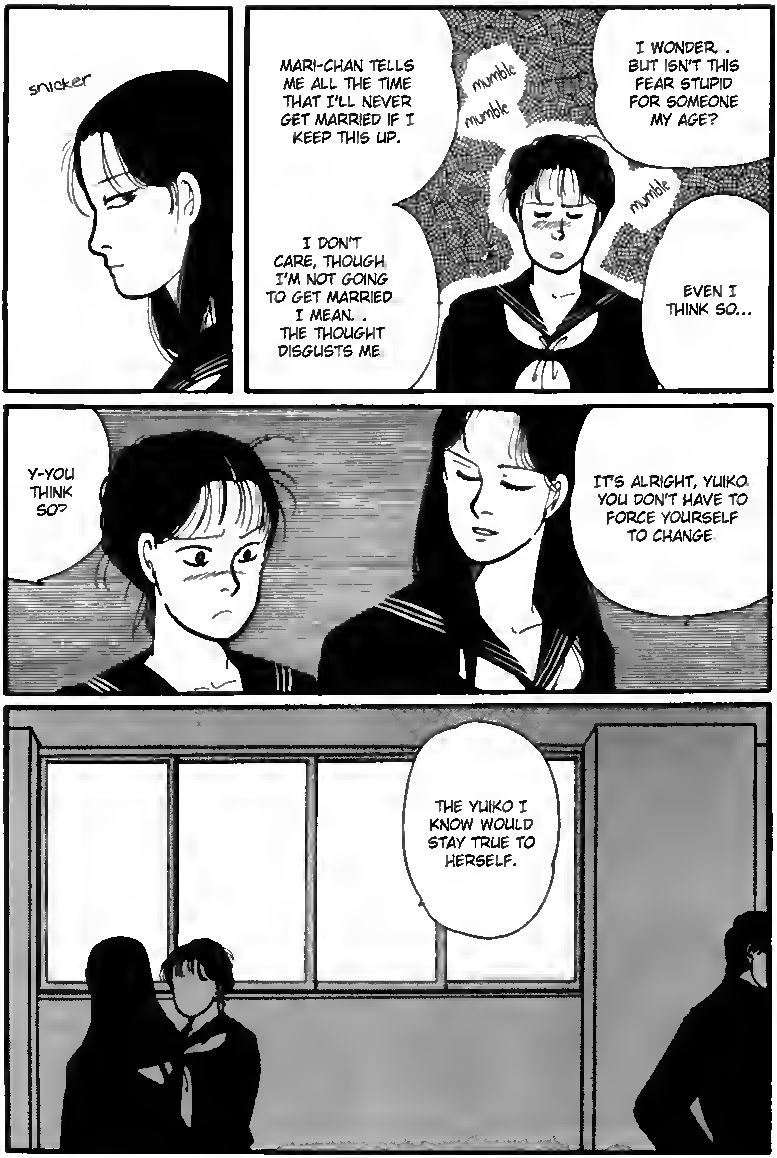
TCHE! I DON'T GET HER ...
ASAI...? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
UMM, TOONO-KUN...
TCHE! OF ALL TIMES...
SURE, WHATEVER. I'LL WRITE. GIVE ME THE BOOK.
THIS SUCKS .. HE'S ALREADY IN A BAD MOOD ...
UMM, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP OUT THE TEACHERS TODAY. IT'S YOUR TURN TO WRITE, SO...
HEY, LISTEN ..!
.....
flomp
flinch
I-A
AH!

T/N: Write, as in attendance and such

I TOTALLY GET THAT YOU HATE ME,
BUT I'M NOT MADE OF GERMS!
I WON'T PUT UP WITH YOUR PANICKING JUST BECAUSE OUR HANDS TOUCHED THE TEENIEST, TINIEST BIT! I'M NOT GONNA BITE, YOU KNOW!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL AT ME THIS WAY!
THIS IS WHY I HATE MEN! ANGER IS ALWAYS THEIR FIRST REACTION!
TCHE! I'M SO SICK...
OF WOMEN!
YUIKO.


YOU SAW THAT?
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU AND RYOU-KUN WERE REALLY GOING AT IT.
EH..?
HOW COULD I NOT, THE WAY YOU TWO WERE YELLING
WHY?
DO YOU REALLY HATE MEN THAT MUCH?
THIS IS WHY I HATE MEN! THEY'RE SO VIOLENT!
HE MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL!
LIKE I SAID.. THEY'RE TOO LOUD!
EH..?

YUIKO, YOU DON'T HATE MEN. YOU'RE AFRAID OF THEM.
W-WHAT IS IT?!
snicker snicker
HOPELESS..
I'M...
IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF...
IT'S OK. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT..
NOT ESPE-CIALLY...
THAT'S ALRIGHT... IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN HELP IT...
I THOUGHT I'D GET BETTER BY THE TIME I GOT INTO HIGH SCHOOL, BUT IT'S NO USE. I'M AFRAID OF ALL MEN, EXCEPT FOR MY DAD AND MY BROTHER...
I GET NERVOUS IF THEY SO MUCH AS STAND NEXT TO ME.
MARI-CHAN'S BEEN POINTING MY FEAR OUT TO ME... EVER SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL.


snicker
MARI-CHAN TELLS ME ALL THE TIME THAT I'LL NEVER GET MARRIED IF I KEEP THIS UP.
I DON'T CARE, THOUGH. I'M NOT GOING TO GET MARRIED I MEAN. . THE THOUGHT DISGUSTS ME.
mumble
mumble
I WONDER . BUT ISN'T THIS FEAR STUPID FOR SOMEONE MY AGE?
mumble
EVEN I THINK SO...
Y-YOU THINK SO?
IT'S ALRIGHT, YUIKO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO CHANGE
THE YUIKO I KNOW WOULD STAY TRUE TO HERSELF.

<Auspicious Heaveniy Maiden> ③ * END *

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吉祥天女③

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造本には、じゅうぶん注意しておりますが、万一落丁・乱丁などの不良品がありましたらおとりかえいたします。
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FLOWER COMICS

吉田秋生❖大好評発売中

カリフォルニア物語

全8巻

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FLOWER COMICS

フラワーコミックス

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